

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND
China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. XLIII.]

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, 12TH MARCH, 1896.

No. 11.

CONTENTS.

Epitome of the Week, &c.	201
Leading Articles:—	
The Secret Agreement between Russia and China	202
Missionaries and their Work	202
The Reconstitution of the Sanitary Board	203
Japan's Commercial Progress	204
Anti-Chinese Feeling in Cochin-China	204
Yunnan and its Trade Prospects	205
Official Corruption in China	206
Chang Chih-tung and a Squeeze on his Carriage Road	206
Reviews	206
Hongkong Legislative Council	208
The Reconstitution of the Sanitary Board	208
The Registration of Births and Deaths Bill	209
Supreme Court	209
Wreck of the <i>Spondilus</i>	209
The <i>Humber</i> Ashore	209
Centenary of the London Missionary Society	209
Adventurous Voyage of the Schooner <i>Esmeralda</i>	210
Quarantine at Singapore	211
The Wreck of the British barque <i>Lynnwood</i> —Marine Court of Inquiry	211
The National Bank of China, Limited	212
Hongkong Hotel Co., Limited	212
The China and Manila Steamship Co., Limited	213
Hongkong Rope Manufacturing Co., Limited	213
The Straits Insurance Co., Limited	213
Hongkong Golf Club	214
Hongkong Football Cup Final	215
Hongkong Rifle Association	215
Royal Hongkong Yacht Club	216
Correspondence	216
The Secret Treaty Between China and Russia	217
The Chairman of the Saigon Chamber of Commerce on the Chinese	218
The Kucheng Magistrate Punished	219
Hongkong News	219
Commercial	221
Shipping	223

BIRTH.

On the 4th inst., at No. 4, Blue Buildings (the residence of her mother, Mrs. Ruchwaldy) the wife of C. E. A. PFANKUCHEN, C.I.M.C., of a son. [630]

DEATHS.

At Capsuminon Customs Station, on the 4th March, the infant daughter of MARY and CHRISTIAN LYNBORG, aged 4 days. [638]

At Shanghai General Hospital, on the 28th February, 1896, CLAUD JOHANN VOLLRATH HOERK, aged 37 years.

At Shanghai General Hospital, on the 28th February, 1896, DUNCAN HENDRY, late chief engineer of the steamer *Chilli*, aged 41 years.

At the Shanghai General Hospital, on the 1st March, 1896, BERNARD MULLER, Lower Yangtze Pilot, aged 61 years.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The English mail of the 7th February arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Kaiser-i-Hind*, on the 9th March (31 days); and the German mail of the 10th February arrived, per N. D. L. steamer *Preussen*, on the 11th March (30 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The Shell Line steamer *Spondilus* has been wrecked on Cape Varela.

The British steamer *Humber*, from Japan with a cargo of coal, has been wrecked on Sand Island, the Pescadores.

A public meeting in celebration of the centenary of the London Missionary Society was held at Hongkong on the 4th March.

Mr. A. G. Wood has been appointed the representative of the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce at the London Congress of Chambers of Commerce.

The *Official Gazette* of Japan definitely announces that Marquis Yamagata has been appointed Japanese Ambassador to attend the forthcoming coronation of the Tsar.

The Paknam Railway Co., Limited, pays a dividend of 2½ per cent. for the past half-year and adds 4.487 ticals to the reserve fund, after writing off 1.479 ticals for depreciation.

The liquidators are making a fourth payment of \$1.25 per share in the distribution of the assets of the Straits Fire Insurance Co., Limited, in liquidation, making \$25.25 return on \$20 paid up.

Japanese papers state that the new treaty of commerce and navigation with France will be signed ere long. The treaty with Germany is delayed only by negotiations upon some details of the tariff.

The vote of censure on the Government proposed in the Lower House of the Japanese Diet on the 25th February was defeated by 165 votes to 101.

A Reuter's telegram states that China has refused the offer of a French syndicate's loan, although backed by the French Government. Negotiations with the Anglo-German syndicate are proceeding.

It is beginning to be believed in Japan that there is a project for an alliance between Russia and Japan, and that Marquis Yamagata, who is to represent Japan on the occasion of the Czar's coronation, is charged with the negotiations.

At the annual meeting of the Shanghai Waterworks Co. the directors will recommend a final dividend for the year of 23s. per share, payable at exchange of 3s. 0½d. per tael. The interim dividend paid in July last was 13s. at 3s. 0½d.

The Japanese Foreign Department has issued a notification under date of 22nd February that the treaties of Foreign Powers with Japan will in future apply also to Formosa, Kelung, Tamsui, Anping, Tainan, and Takow being declared open for foreign residence and trade.

What are stated to be the terms of the alleged secret agreement between Russia and China, have been published by the *N. C. Daily News*, and appear to be authentic. The agreement establishes an offensive and defensive alliance and concedes great advantages to Russia.

A Bill for the reconstitution of the Sanitary Board was introduced in the Hongkong Legislative Council on the 10th March, but the first reading was postponed for a month. The Bill reduces the unofficial element of the Board, and it is probable it will meet with strong opposition.

It is reported that the Yokohama Specie Bank contemplates exchanging £700,000 in gold which it has in reserve for its equivalent in silver, and adding the profit thus made to its capital. The reason for this action is that it is considered there is no necessity to keep so much gold now the management of the indemnity money has been placed in the hands of the Bank.

The report of the China and Manila Steamship Co., Limited, for last year shows that the net profit, including a small balance brought forward from last report, was \$35,974, of which it is proposed to place \$10,000 to reserve, to pay a dividend of 10 per cent., which will absorb \$25,000, and to carry forward the balance.

Native reports from Socchow announce the receipt by Governor Chao of that city of a despatch from the Tsungli Yamen stating that the government intend to curtail the privileges conceded to Japanese in Socchow and Hangchow. The tone now adopted by the mandarins towards the Japanese in Socchow is said to have undergone a marked change in consequence. — *N. C. Daily News*.

H. E. Li Hung-chang will, it is expected, stay in Shanghai about a fortnight and will probably leave for Europe by the French mail steamer *Ernest Simons* on the 28th March. His Excellency will land at Marseilles and from thence take train to St. Petersburg. After despatching his business there the ex-Viceroy will not improbably make a tour on the Continent, but it is uncertain whether he will return by way of America.

The annual general meeting of shareholders of the Co-operative Cargo Boat Co., of Shanghai, Limited, was held on the 5th March. The report and accounts were accepted and passed, and it was decided that a final dividend of 9 per cent., making 16 per cent. for the year, be paid, absorbing Tls. 9,000, that Tls. 15,000 be transferred to reserve and maintenance account, and that Tls. 1,477.72 be carried forward.

The annual meeting of the Taku Tug and Lighter Co., Limited, was held at Tientsin on the 23rd February, when the report and accounts were adopted and passed. The working account shows a credit balance of \$189,244. The directors paid an interim dividend of 7 per cent in July, and have put to depreciation \$47,069. They now pay a dividend of 10 per cent., carry \$28,571 to reserve, and \$10,000 to fund for equalisation of dividends, and carry forward to 1896 \$18,482.

The Agents of the China Mutual Steam Navigation Company, Limited (Messrs. Holliday, Wise & Co.), have received a telegram stating that a highly satisfactory general meeting was held in London recently, at which it was decided to declare a final dividend of 3 per cent., making 6 per cent. in all for last year, on the preference shares, and also a dividend of 6 per cent. on the ordinary shares, each dividend to be payable on the 12th inst. The Company has also been able to set aside £30,000 to the depreciation and reserve fund, being the same amount as last year.

The report of the Hongkong Rope Manufacturing Co., Limited, shows that the net profit for last year, including a balance of \$4,152 brought forward, was \$83,486. It is proposed to place \$65,000 to reserve, to pay a dividend of 10 per cent., which will absorb \$15,000, and to carry forward the balance. As it has now become necessary to increase the capacity of the factory by enlarging the building and making considerable additions to the plant, &c., it is intended to raise the capital to \$250,000, by issuing 2,000 shares of \$50 each, in payment of which the sum of \$100,000 from the reserve fund will be applied.

THE SECRET AGREEMENT BETWEEN RUSSIA AND CHINA.

That a secret agreement or treaty has been entered into by Russia and China has been more than suspected for some time past, and the *N. C. Daily News* now publishes what purports to be the genuine text thereof. The communication has come through Chinese channels, but it bears evidence of authenticity. In its introductory remarks our contemporary seems to assume that this is the same treaty as that which WANG CHIH-CHUN took to Russia with him in the latter part of 1894 when he went to convey the Emperor KWANG SU's congratulations on the accession of the Czar. Obviously, however, that is impossible, because the document now under notice refers to conditions and events which were non-existent at that time. WANG CHIH-CHUN's treaty was not ratified by the Czar, the Russian Government deeming it more advisable, for self evident reasons, that it should remain a secret agreement or understanding and not take the form of a definite treaty. Consequently it was open to both parties to deny that any such treaty existed. Since that time the agreement must have been redrafted and amplified, but the probability is that it was still intended to keep it on the footing of a secret understanding and that its publication will cause no small displeasure to the Governments of the two countries concerned.

Although it would not be correct to say that the agreement reduces China to the level of a Russian protectorate it seems that Russia's assistance in securing the retrocession of the Liaotung Peninsula is to be paid for by China by very substantial concessions indeed. She gives Russia the use of all her harbours and allows her to recruit her forces in Chinese territory; and at Port Arthur, or, in the alternative, Kiaochow Bay, Russia is to be permitted to canton her troops and build coal sheds. Three Chinese interpreters are to be appointed to the Russian ships to assist the Russian and Chinese officials in their mutual intercourse. If China on her part has difficulties with other Powers, Russia is to use her endeavours to arrange them, but if these good offices be of no effect Russia is "to give her help to China" before "other Powers, thereby binding firmly the alliance between the two countries." China also grants Russian officers freedom of movement on the eastern frontiers of her possessions of Fengtien and Kirin, and permission to navigate the Yalu river, with its several affluents, along these provinces, either for the purpose of trade or to assist China to police the frontiers of the respective countries. When the Siberian Railway is completed Russia is to be permitted to build a branch line to Talienwan or any other point that may be chosen by Russia, and for the protection of the line against attack by other Powers an island is to be ceded to Russia which she is to be at liberty to fortify. For the protection of Vladivostock and the Siberian railway "some points" to the south are to be ceded to Russia. If hostilities break out between Russia and Japan over Korea Russia is to be at liberty to attack the western frontiers of Korea by the Yalu River. China is to open markets for Russian trade, so that Russian manufactures may come into China in a ceaseless stream. Lastly, Russia is to supply officers to drill the Chinese troops.

It is said that the mission of LI HUNG-CHANG to Russia is not only for the purpose of attending the Czar's coronation, but is also in connection with the ratification of

this treaty or agreement, and it seems extremely probable. Our Shanghai contemporary asks whether our Government will oppose the ratification, or will take compensation in the Yangtze Valley and assist in the partitioning of China. A preliminary question, however, is whether there is anything to justify opposition to the ratification. No one, we think, will say it will not be an excellent thing to have a railway to Talienwan, even though it be in Russian hands. As to the trading advantages promised to Russia, they all inure to Great Britain as well as Russia under the most favoured nation clause. With regard to the cession of an island to Russia for a fortified coaling station, the only course we could adopt if we felt our interests threatened thereby would be to claim some equivalent advantage for ourselves. China is at liberty to dispose of her territory as she pleases, unless, as in the case of Chusan, she has entered into some special convention in restraint of that liberty. We in Hongkong want an extension of our Kowloon frontier at China's expense, and we cannot admit that it is the business of any other nation than China and ourselves. Russia may justifiably take up similar ground with regard to the arrangements between China and herself in the North. For Great Britain to say to Russia that she shall not take such and such territory or to China that she shall not make such and such a concession would be an impolitic proceeding. Russian expansion may not be agreeable to Great Britain, but it is not a thing that we should try to oppose by force. What we should do, rather, is to see that our own expansion keeps pace with that of our rival; if the pace becomes too hot the latter may then be disposed to call a halt and discuss terms of arrangement, just as she undertook, in consideration of Great Britain's withdrawal from Port Hamilton, that she would occupy no part of Korea. At the present juncture England might appropriately occupy Chusan and, possibly, some island on the Korean coast, the latter to be one more suitable for a trading station and more easily defensible than Port Hamilton.

MISSIONARIES AND THEIR WORK.

"In the foremost rank of powers destined to change the face of the world stand 'Christian Missions.' This sentence, quoted by the Chief Justice in his speech at the meeting held on Wednesday to celebrate the centenary of the London Missionary Society, will command the assent of all thoughtful men. Christian Missions have already accomplished much and by their work they must be judged. One of the most unpromising fields, however, is China, and here in Hongkong we are naturally inclined to pay more particular regard to the local aspects of the question than to its more general aspects. In a leaflet on the work of the London Missionary Society in different parts of the world we find it stated that in Polynesia many islands and even entire groups of islands have been won from cannibalism and savage heathenism to Christian civilization, but when we come to China we are told that in the district of Amoy there are now over sixty churches and preaching stations and a Christian community of about three thousand souls, and in Hankow and its out-stations there are upwards of thirteen hundred church members. These are selected presumably as the most flourishing of the Society's missions in China and as representative of its chief successes. The results are not inconsiderable, but at the

same time they are not such as to strike the worldly imagination very forcibly. It is perhaps not difficult to account for the difference in the measure of success achieved respectively in wholly savage countries and in a semi-civilized country like China. In the former, the missionaries have a practically virgin soil to work on, whereas in China the ground is already occupied by a civilization which, defective as it is, is yet revered and held in deep affection by the natives, and which has a moral code of a relatively high order, so high indeed that as between the converted and unconverted Chinaman there is not much difference to outward seeming. The unconverted South Sea Islander is useless for any systematised commercial or industrial purposes, whereas in the case of a Chinaman no European having business to do with him ever thinks of asking whether he is a Christian or not, and if the fact that he is a Christian happens to be known it does not engender any increase of confidence or respect. As domestic servants the preference would probably be given to men who were not Christians, the general experience of the latter not being uniformly favourable. Far be it from us to suggest that the Christianisation of China is not desirable or that it does not justify the strongest efforts for its accomplishment, but it is well to look at the facts as they really are. The administration of China is thoroughly rotten and corrupt, selfishness, greed, and cruelty characterise the whole of the inhabitants, and it will be a happy day for the country when the light of Christianity shines in all its dark places; but taking things as they are the foreigner finds the individual Chinaman by no means a bad man to do business with; as a workman he is industrious and frugal; as a merchant or tradesman he is not devoid of probity.

Dr. ETTEL, in his speech at the meeting on Wednesday, said that whilst crediting the Hongkong community with a measure of interest in and respect for mission work, he must also say that far more scope might be given to this often latent appreciation of a noble pursuit. When the appreciation exists at all it is more often latent than active, and latent appreciation, we take it, amounts to no more than an absence of active hostility. Non-appreciation of missionary work is a characteristic of the communities of the Far East. Diverse reasons might be adduced in explanation of this fact. To begin with, the communities in question are not animated by any great amount of religious enthusiasm, but are for the most part either indifferent or pronouncedly agnostic. Even of the small proportion who attend public worship the majority appear to do so with large mental reservations and rather for the sake of old associations and the encouragement of what in a vague way they think tends to righteousness than with any firm belief in religious dogmas. In communities such as these the missionary spirit necessarily burns feebly. Some interest, however, might be aroused if there was anything tangible to show for the work, but in practical everyday life a native Christian is indistinguishable from the heathen. We do not speak of the spiritual results, which, with all reverence, we pass by, for we are discussing the subject now from quite a worldly point of view. Then, again, it is felt that missionaries often cause unnecessary trouble. Especially is the wisdom of sending female missionaries into the interior called in question. When harm comes to them we have naval demonstrations and demands for compensation and though,

as the Bishop remarked on Wednesday, it is the protection of foreigners as such, not as missionaries, that is the object aimed at, the fact nevertheless remains that if the foreigners in question had not been missionaries they would not have been where they were and the trouble would never have arisen. For our own part, we hold, supposing the discretion of the missionaries to be trustworthy, that the more they penetrate into the country the better, for it all means opening the way for extended foreign intercourse; but unfortunately missionaries are not uniformly discreet, and an indiscreet man or woman in such a position may work an infinity of mischief. Then again, coming back to the question of the attitude of the foreign communities in China towards missionary work, there is often a want of personal sympathy between missionaries and their fellow countrymen that accounts to some extent for the indifference of the latter to the great movement in progress. That the worldly should sneer at the religious is only in accordance with what has prevailed from time immemorial, but over and above that we find honourable and upright men, men of fine sympathies to whose nature a sneer at anything good would be repugnant, who have a distaste to any close association with missionary work in general and who, if they put their names down on a subscription list or lend a nominal support to some particular branch of the work, do so more out of complaisance than from any active good will. To hospitals of course men of all creeds and views can readily subscribe, for the relief of the sick is an object that appeals to all alike, but the same reasons do not exist with regard to proselytising work.

Perhaps some explanation of the disfavour with which missionaries as a body are viewed may be found in the claim often put forward on their behalf that they live lives of special self-sacrifice, for those who fail to detect the self-sacrifice are inclined to think that their whole career is a fraud and a sham. And speaking generally there is no special self-sacrifice in the case. Missionaries enter on their career with the same honest and earnest intentions that are entertained by all upright men entering any other profession to do their duty, but they select the career because it happens to accord with their inclination. Of two brothers one elects to be a missionary, another to go to sea, both following the bent of their inclinations; the chances are that the sailor will be called upon to undergo infinitely greater hardships than the missionary, especially if the lot of the latter should be cast in such countries as India or China, but he gets no public credit as a possible martyr, though he is very likely to be drowned. Nor must it be forgotten that to some entrance upon a missionary life means a distinct step upwards in the social scale; as missionaries they at once secure a measure of social distinction that they would not command as clerks or tradesmen until after long years of hard work and perhaps not at all. That does not derogate from the value of their labour nor from their claim for any credit that may be due them for its honest and successful performance, but it does derogate from their claim to have made a sacrifice of self in leaving the tradesman's counter or the clerk's desk to enter upon a genteel profession. True the annals of missionary work contain many cases of true and noble heroism, but heroism is not especially characteristic of the profession. Not to speak of the army and navy, heroes are to be found also in the ranks of science,

men who will boldly face danger and risk their lives in a search, it may be, for the North Pole, or, as in the case of Dr. Aoyama, in investigating a medical problem. Most men would like to prove themselves heroes if the opportunity offered, but the good fortune comes to few. The missionary body are no doubt as heroic in disposition as any other body of men, but there is no reason to suppose that they are more so, while as to self-sacrifice in entering upon their calling, it can be held to exist only if we accept inclination and a call of duty as equivalent terms. Duty may and often does coincide with inclination, but self-sacrifice only appears when duty is voluntarily performed in opposition to inclination and to self-interest.

THE RECONSTITUTION OF THE SANITARY BOARD.

(10th March.)

The Bill effecting an alteration in the constitution of the Sanitary Board comes up for first reading at the meeting of the Legislative Council this afternoon. It is a reactionary and mischievous measure, designed for the curtailment of popular privileges, and fraught with grave peril to the interests of property and the trade of the colony. It is stated in the objects and reasons that it has been framed upon the lines suggested by the majority of the unofficial members who were consulted upon the subject in 1894. We hope the gentlemen who are thus charged with the responsibility of this miserable Bill have by this time seen reason to modify their views and that they will join with their colleagues in opposing the measure, and that they will emphasise their opposition by not waiting for the second reading, but will move its rejection as soon as it is brought in. Should the Bill be forced through, as no doubt it will be, by the official phalanx, it will be the duty of the unofficial members to see that a suspending clause is introduced so that it may not come into force until the community has had an opportunity of petitioning Her Majesty against it. This is not a mere question of sentiment, but one which touches every man in his home and his pocket. The Bill establishes what in practice will prove an intolerable tyranny. Very large and comprehensive powers have been conferred by the Public Health Acts upon the Sanitary Board as a popularly constituted body, and what is now proposed is that those powers shall be exercised by a small official coterie.

Under section 4 of the Public Health Ordinance of 1887 the Sanitary Board was to consist of four official and six unofficial members. Under the new Bill it is to consist of three official and two unofficial members. Of the six unofficial members under the old constitution two were to be elected by the ratepayers on the jury list and four (two being Chinese) were to be appointed by the Governor. Under the new constitution both the official members are to be elected by the ratepayers on the jury list. It is improbable that any Chinaman will ever be elected and the Chinese community will therefore remain unrepresented. That is a defect, though not the most serious one in the Bill. When we are trying to impose an enlightened system of sanitation upon the Chinese community we ought at least to give our native fellow residents the opportunity of making their voice officially heard, so that in dealing with the numerous difficult problems that arise the body responsible for their solution may have the advantage of knowing the feelings, views, and wishes of

those primarily affected. The doctor who has to treat diseases in the human being has an advantage over the veterinary surgeon inasmuch as his patient can usually assist him by a description of his symptoms, but the Hongkong Government in its wisdom thinks the Chinese community should be treated on veterinary principles. It must be admitted that the Chinese members, with the exception of the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, have not hitherto given the Board much assistance, but that is due to the accident of unfortunate selection by the Governor and does not affect the principle that the Chinese should be accorded a hearing if they have anything to say. The chief defect in the Bill, however, is its reduction of the unofficial element generally. In dealing with questions of public sanitation it is desirable that as far as possible all the public interests affected should be represented in the making of the regulations and their administration, so that stupid mistakes, unnecessarily oppressive steps, and useless friction may be avoided. We want in the first place business common sense to determine the action to be taken by the Board on the advice of its technical advisers, and if to that we can add the practical knowledge possessed by doctors and architects so much the better.

The Board as it existed before the late disruption was very well constituted. Commerce, medicine, law, and civil engineering were all represented. All that was required was a little enlargement of membership, so as to facilitate the interchange of diverse views, and greater freedom of action. Instead of carrying out reform on these lines, however, the Government has adopted a reactionary policy that would be more in keeping with the traditions of the Tsungli Yamen than with those of an enlightened British administration. At the last meeting of the Legislative Council the Hon. C. P. CHATER, referring to the confirmation of certain by-laws passed by the Sanitary Board, said:—"Having in mind the painful experience of the past, and knowing as I do that a few sporadic cases of plague have recently made their appearance, I am loth even to appear to in any way hamper the Government in regard to any measure they may see fit to take with a view of eradicating this disease. I therefore, at the present, refrain from criticising these by-laws, though I see serious objection to their operation. I trust, however, that when the Government is satisfied that the colony is thoroughly cleansed they will consent to reconsider this matter." Under the new constitution of the Sanitary Board probably many sets of by-laws will be passed to which the hon. gentleman may see serious objection, for little regard will be had to public feeling or public convenience, and equally he may refrain from criticism either of the by-laws themselves or of their administration. "Why Hongkong does not become a great manufacturing centre" is a question which has for some time past engaged attention and various reasons have been assigned to account for the fact that this colony should lag so far behind Shanghai. The principal reason, however, and one which embraces most of the others that have been mentioned, is that the form of government is unsuitable to the circumstances, and with such an old man of the sea on its back the colony can make no progress. The spirit animating the Government is clearly manifested in the Bill to be introduced in the Legislative Council this afternoon. Three officials are to constitute the Sanitary Board (the unofficials won't count in the matter) and may run things in such a way as to frighten

away capital. At the same time they are at liberty to invade the houses of the inhabitants, to throw their furniture out of the windows under pretext of whitewashing the premises, and to make things generally as unpleasant as they like. Hence we say the measure touches every man in his pocket and his home and we trust that every constitutional means will be used to prevent its becoming law.

Let us not be misunderstood. There is only one opinion in the European community as to the necessity of bringing the colony into a thoroughly sanitary condition and if to cope with an epidemic it were necessary for the saving of time to throw the people's furniture out of the window every one would say throw it out by all means. But it is right and proper that the common sense of the community should have some say in the matter and that it should not be left solely in the hands of officials responsible to no one but themselves; officials who may be over-active or sluggish by fits and starts. The whole history of government in Hongkong is a history of conspicuous failure, the progress the colony has made having been achieved in spite of and not with the assistance of the administration. We throw no aspersions on the good intentions of the officials, but good intentions do not always bring forth good results. Torquemada was influenced by good intentions. It may be said, as indeed it has been said, that the agitation for an extension of popular privileges in this colony is only a notion of greasy Radicals. The introduction of party feeling into our local politics is to be deprecated, but we may remind our readers that long before the Radical party was heard of Englishmen prided themselves on the possession of political privileges; and members of the great Conservative party, which gave to England County Councils, need not fear that they are breaking with their political principles by joining in the effort to secure for the residents of Hongkong some small share of the liberty enjoyed everywhere else under the British flag, namely, the liberty to manage their own municipal and sanitary affairs.

It will be noted on referring to the Bill that the Medical Officer of Health is not included in the new constitution of the Sanitary Board. It was the appointment of the then Acting Medical Officer of Health as a member of the Board while not appointing him an officer of the Board that led to the resignation of those of the unofficial members who were in the colony at the time. The view they took of that matter has apparently been approved by the Secretary of State, but at the same time the Government has been successful in securing the practical elimination of the unofficial element for the future. The balance of victory therefore rests so far with the officials, who are to be troubled no more, if they can help it, with troublesome unofficial co-operation. It rests with the community to see that the matter is not left at that stage.

JAPAN'S COMMERCIAL PROGRESS.

At the meeting of the Bank of Japan held on the 15th February a very interesting report was submitted by the President throwing a good deal of light on the commercial and economic development of the country during the past year. The report, a full translation of which appears in the *Japan Mail*, is in the form of what we should term the Chairman's speech, but Baron

KAWATA being absent through illness it was read by a clerk. A good deal of it refers to the relations of the Bank with the Government and the financing of the war expenditure, but what we are now concerned with is the portion referring to the commercial development of Japan. When the war broke out the Bank, alive to the necessity of supplying money for war expenses, was compelled to raise the rate of interest and to strictly regulate ordinary commercial loans; but when peace was restored, and the future disbursements on account of the war could be tolerably well gauged, the Bank, desirous of meeting pressing public needs, resolved that the demand for loans should be complied with as in ordinary times. Steps were accordingly taken to meet these demands, and on 12th July the rate of interest on loans was lowered. Mention is then made of various causes contributing to commercial activity, such as a brisk export trade, seasonable weather favourable to the rice crop, and confidence that the indemnity would be promptly paid by China. Owing to these and other causes, Baron KAWATA went on to say, the future gradually began to wear a roscate aspect for speculators and investors. Sales of commodities were brisk, and the market rose quickly. Bonds and shares reached extraordinary figures, chiefly through the number of buyers in the field, while new industrial projects or the enlargement of banks and business companies involved such enormous investments of capital as to amaze outsiders. If reference be had to statistics, it will be seen that, during the month of December, the market for staple commodities rose 10 per cent. above the prices prevailing in January of the same year, principal stocks rose 50 per cent., while the number of new or contemplated expansion of old projects in banks and industrial corporations exceeded 420. These projects involved fresh investments of capital to above 390 million yen.

Then we come to a passage in the report on which we are inclined to join issue. "The expansion of the national economy after a victorious war is what every person desires, but none the less such an unusual rise in the market price of commodities and such an extraordinary rush of enterprise cannot be regarded as altogether healthy. This extraordinary state of affairs cannot last long, and, in conformity with the laws of demand and supply, both commodities and stocks must naturally fall to their normal level, while projects of banks and companies not based on sound foundations will, as the result of competition, fail of realization." So far from the prices of commodities falling to their former level there is every indication that Japan has entered on a period of steadily rising prices. Rapid commercial development with a large demand for labour necessarily leads to an increase in the values of commodities, more especially when the currency is abundant, and without a cheap and abundant currency the other conditions can hardly be fulfilled. In silver Japan has such a currency, and with the rapid extension of her manufactures and the consequent demand for labour wages and commodities must inevitably rise. As to the price of stocks, that of course depends on the earning power of the companies and on the current rate of interest, and as public companies in Japan are doing well and are likely to continue to do so, and as the fall in the rate of interest experienced throughout the rest of the civilized world must also necessarily make itself felt in Japan, the tendency of stocks must be upward, always provided that the country remains at peace.

The excitement following a victorious war may and probably has led to some amount of unhealthy speculation, and various unstable projects may come to grief, but making all due allowance under this head the general tendency will be in the direction above indicated.

Some interesting figures showing the expansion of the currency are given by Baron KAWATA. Whereas the total currency in circulation did not exceed 165 million yen approximately in the beginning of the year, it was swollen to more than 210 million yen at the close. This increase was not entirely due to the necessity of war disbursements. The progress attained by the economic world in consequence of the war was equally remarkable. The following statistics which go to prove this contention are given: the grand total of the year's exports and imports reached the extraordinary figure of 265,370,000 yen approximately, an increase of above 15 per cent. over that of the previous year; the loans of the Tokyo Bankers' Union amounted to more than 71,750,000 yen, or an increase of about 7 per cent. over that of the preceding year; while the transactions of the Tokyo Clearing House reached the enormous sum of over 289,100,000 yen, or an increase of about 56 per cent. These figures give a vivid idea of the commercial development Japan is undergoing. We see no reason why the rate of progress should not be maintained, and as the danger of unwise and reckless speculation is recognised and is being guarded against it may be expected that the national trade and credit from this source will be kept within narrow limits. On this point Baron KAWATA at the conclusion of his report says:—"The finances and national economics during the war can be adjusted in a satisfactory manner, but the rush into speculative projects is an unavoidable consequence of the glorious issue of the war, and it may prove a task of great difficulty to regulate the market and thus enable the nation to achieve genuine and proper development. The Bank expects, however, to undertake this task as the central mechanism of national finance and it hopes to complete the adjustment of the national finances with satisfactory results."

ANTI-CHINESE FEELING IN COCHIN-CHINA.

In the French possessions in Indo-China there is a violent feeling of hostility to the Chinese, whose successful competition in various lines of wholesale and retail trade is bitterly resented. This feeling found authoritative expression the other day in the speech of M. ROLLAND, the Chairman of the Saigon Chamber of Commerce, a translation of which we published yesterday. The occasion of the speech was an alteration in the constitution of the Chamber. Our English Chambers of Commerce are voluntary associations forming their own rules as to the admission of members and are entirely independent of the Government. In France, however, and in the French possessions, the Chambers are semi-governmental institutions, the members of which are formally elected by a legally defined constituency. At Saigon the constitution of the Chamber formally admitted a limited number of foreign representatives including Chinese. That has now been altered and henceforth the Chamber is to be exclusively French. M. ROLLAND while expressing regret at losing the assistance of the European members of foreign nationality expresses unbounded satisfaction at the elimination of the Chinese,

whose presence in the Chamber he speaks of as having been attended with inconvenience and even danger. Seeing that the number of Chinese members was limited and that they were never in a position to impose their views on the Chamber or to exercise more than a consultative voice in its deliberations the inconvenience and danger could not have been very great, but as they were considered undesirable members there is nothing to be said against their elimination.

The interest of M. ROLLAND'S speech lies in its general attack upon Chinese commercial rivalry. "Our dear brothers 'in God of the yellow race' are not welcome in Saigon, but it is admitted that they cannot be dispensed with. M. ROLLAND, however, would keep them in what he considers their proper place, as underlings and auxiliaries, and would not allow them to rise above it. Now, assuming repression to be possible, is it desirable? Do the Chinese do more harm than good to the colony by their commercial activity? In considering questions of this kind we must not allow sentiment to over-ride judgment. It is easy to understand how galling it is to an *epicier* to find a Chinese *compradore* undercutting him and taking away his trade and how natural it is for the *epicier* to think legislative measures should be adopted for the exclusion or repression of the Chinese. But it is not only in retail trade that the competition of the Chinese is felt; they are also monopolising the trade in the export of rice to eastern ports and likewise the rice milling industry. Frenchmen do not like to think that it is the Chinese who profit most by the French domination in the colony and hence the outcry against them. But the interest of the individual is not always synonymous with that of the community and if Chinese enterprise were crushed out of Cochin-China the colony would lose a valuable factor in the building up of its prosperity.

Reference was made by M. ROLLAND to the cases of Australia and the United States, where measures for the exclusion of the Chinese have been adopted. Without offering any justification for the action taken by the two countries named it may be pointed out that the conditions there are vastly different from those prevailing in a colony of the Far East. The exclusion in the former has been enforced in the supposed interests of the labouring classes and to prevent the white race being swamped by the yellow, whereas in the case of Cochin-China it is demanded in the interests of the European trading classes alone, no scare having been raised about the possible swamping of the Annamite race, and if such swamping took place the general opinion would probably be that it was a very good thing, for the Annamites are a much inferior people to the Chinese. It is solely as a measure of commercial protection, therefore, that the exclusion of the Chinese is asked for. When Saigon was a free port the Frenchmen resident there grew restive under the large importation of foreign goods and complained of it in the most violent terms until the tariff general was introduced; when it was seen that the effect of that ill-judged measure was almost to ruin the trade of the port, and that it did in fact ruin a number of individuals, the complaint changed its complexion. Similar experience would follow the exclusion of the Chinese. Individual traders may think that if they could get rid of Chinese competition they would make rapid fortunes for themselves, but when it came to the test of experiment they would find that

the injury done to trade in general was so great that there would be little chance of making a bare living. We cordially agree with M. ROLLAND that the *compradore* ought not to be allowed to take charge of his employer's business and reduce the latter to a mere attorney, but that is a matter for the merchants individually to see to, not one calling for repressive legislation.

YUNNAN AND ITS TRADE PROSPECTS.

There is little that is fresh, however interesting to the general reader, in the information extracted by a Bangkok contemporary from Dr. MORRISON, the Australian traveller, concerning Yunnan. The adventurous and enterprising colonial mainly confirms what other explorers—COOPER, GILL, COLBORNE BABER, ROCHER, COLQUHOUN, and others—have narrated concerning the people and resources of this most western province of China. Many years ago, prior to the Mahomedan Rebellion, Yunnan was a populous and wealthy province, happy in the possession of a fertile soil, valuable mineral resources, thriving manufactures, and an abundant population. But the inhabitants were discontented with the rule of the eaters of swine, and sought to set up a government of true believers of the Prophet. The Chinese Government, after a long and sanguinary struggle, the horrors of which have never been properly told, succeeded in completely crushing this insurrection and restoring not perhaps order but what they called their rule. "They 'made a solitude, and called it peace.'" This perhaps best expresses the position, and even to the present moment this applies to extensive districts where nothing but the ruins of former towns and villages remain to attest that they were ever inhabited. The once populous province is in many parts desolate, and every city shows tokens of decay. A great portion of Yunnan is also mountainous and difficult to penetrate, a country that might be held against an enemy with great success by a really military and resourceful people. But the Yunnanese were neither, and, shut out from the sea and from communication with other countries, had no base from whence to draw supplies, and hence presumably the reasons for their gradual destruction by the Chinese Imperial troops. The same thing is now proceeding in Kansuh, where rebellion has again lifted its head; the Mahomedans of that province are gradually being obliterated, and the movement, like that under YACOOB BEG in Kashgaria, will be crushed by weight of numbers.

Yet though Ichabod is written on the ruined cities of Yunnan, and their resuscitation is likely to be exceedingly slow owing to the naturally inaccessible nature of the country and to the distance from any populous state or province, there is hope of a slow revival both of population and trade. This is retarded in great measure owing to the malarial character of the climate in many of the marshy plains. LAGRÉE, the gallant French explorer, and WAHAB, COLQUHOUN'S companion, fell victims to it. It would seem as though, when the country lapsed into wilderness, the climate experienced a change for the worse. COLQUHOUN and other travellers speak of the sickly nature of the climate; in some districts there is, we are assured, hardly a sound or healthy person of any age to be seen. But this does not apply to the whole province, for there are more salubrious parts, where man and beast thrive and cultivation of the soil is most successful. The natural resources of the

country are undoubtedly rich. Its copper mines have been famous for generations, and though worked in a very primitive fashion have long been the chief source of supply for the greater part of the Central Kingdom both for the currency and for other purposes. Yunnan also possesses some fairly rich gold mines, worked also on unscientific lines, but turning out a considerable quantity of the precious metal, some of which is manufactured into jewellery, while a good deal of the ore finds its way to Peking. The deposits of rock salt are very extensive. The mines and the mode of working them are described by Mr. BABER in his account of his journey through Yunnan. Other minerals are found, and with any incentive to discovery there is no doubt further resources would be opened up. Meantime the people have no stimulus to exertion, for there are no markets available to them at which to dispose of their produce, and the local authorities place obstructions in the way of mining enterprise. There is practically no capital in the country, and there is no organization for the development of its resources. The copper mines are worked to a certain extent, but the output might be vastly increased, if there were any inducement to do so. Similarly the tea production in the Puerh district might be greatly extended, but the distance from any market and the cost of transit discourages planting. Until therefore the means of communication are improved and there is some influx of population from other provinces it is unlikely that there can be any great recovery in Yunnan of its older prosperity.

As a present market for Western goods Yunnan offers a very limited field. The wants of the people are easily supplied by home-made goods. A limited demand for foreign goods prevails, which might of course be considerably increased, and which the French are trying to stimulate from Tonkin, while British traders send their wares to Bhamo, whence a certain proportion penetrate into Western Yunnan. But there need be no rivalry, for it is not worth any very great effort. If France secured a complete monopoly of the trade of the province it would not exceed that of Tonkin, and that is not likely, for from Mengtzu is a far cry to Tali-fu. Probably France may obtain the advantage in the east of the province, but Western Yunnan will, when railway communication is established, draw her supplies of foreign goods through Burmah. If the West River is opened to foreign trade and steamer navigation permitted as far as Nanning-fu, foreign goods would to some extent find their way into Yunnan by that route. But the whole possible foreign trade of Yunnan would be a mere bagatelle to the total trade of China. This province is at once the most remote and the least populous in the Empire. It is naturally rich, as we have said, but it is extremely malarious in wide districts, and therefore most unsuitable for foreign residence. Probably there is no portion of the Celestial Empire which really offers such slight inducements to the enterprising foreign trader. It possesses, however, the attraction that the little known and therefore mysterious must always have for the traveller. Like the bleak and inhospitable plateaux of Thibet, it still offers the charm of novelty, so for a while it will continue to be talked of and written about as a possible El Dorado by travellers and engineers until the last illusion has been dissipated by its thorough exploration. The French are believed to hanker after this province as a

complement to their possessions in Indo-China. We see no reason why any Power save China should grudge it to them if they really believe they could administer and develop it. At present it languishes under the most corrupt rule possible even in the Central Kingdom, and there is but slender chance of the lot of the people being ameliorated. But if France wants Yunnan she would probably have to fight for it, and after all its possession would be a doubtful boon to her.

OFFICIAL CORRUPTION IN CHINA.

Though the reign of LI HUNG-CHANG and his venal *protégés* appears to be over at Tientsin, there seems little prospect of any real improvement in the administration either of the metropolitan or the southern provinces. The old gang has been dispersed, but a new one has taken its place. The squeeze system has been thoroughly exposed as the primary cause of the recent national humiliation, but the lesson is almost forgotten, and will be completely effaced from official memory in a few years. Already there are signs that the disasters which attended the Chinese troops during the war through the incapacity and corruption of their commanders no longer arouse indignation at Peking. Doubtless the old influences are at work; the friends of the disgraced officials have probably worked hard to secure reversal or commutation of their sentences. Several high officers who have for a long period been lying under sentence of death have just had that sentence commuted to imprisonment for life in the prisons of the Board of Punishments at Peking. On the 17th ult. a special Imperial Decree was issued to this effect, the personages thus favoured being KUNG CHAO-YU, ex-Civil Commandant of Port Arthur, HUANG SHUN-LIN, one of the ex-Military Commandants of that fortress, ex-General YEH CHIH-CHAO, notorious for his disgraceful pusillanimity at Yashan, and CHUANG HSI-YI, ex-Commandant at Yingkow. Nothing has transpired to recommend these men to Imperial clemency; the only supposition being that their family influence was strong enough to procure for them successive postponements of their sentence until the first heat of national and perhaps Imperial indignation had cooled down, and this same influence has now been strong enough to procure commutation of it from death to perpetual imprisonment. As our Shanghai contemporary very pertinently remarks:—"The next step will naturally be a complete reprieve sooner or later, in consideration of a large sum of money subscribed by these malefactors towards railways or the military 'exchequer.'" That is to say, in consideration of their disgorging some of their ill-gotten gains they will be permitted to swagger once more in public, possibly even again be entrusted with place and power. In no other country would such glaring infamies against the state as these men have been guilty of be condoned, and in China they would have stood no chance of escape from the capital penalty had the offenders not been able, through their friends, to bring to bear the talismanic effect of *tao*! It may be said with most absolute truth that in the Central Kingdom there exists one law for the rich and another for the poor. While this corruption exists in high places and the judiciary is in the hands of men who simply trade in the dispensation of the law, justice will continue to be unattainable and rottenness and corruption serve to keep China at the bottom of the scale among

nations professing to be civilised. An act of clemency for a political offence well becomes a monarch, the more so if aimed against him personally or his dynasty, but crimes against the state involving the loss of thousands of lives and national disgrace certainly merit no lenity, and in some cases imperatively demand that an example be made of the criminals.

CHANG CHIH-TUNG AND A SQUEEZE ON HIS CARRIAGE ROAD.

Perhaps no official in China knows better how to get his plans carried out than His Excellency CHANG CHIH-TUNG. Obstacles of the kind the Chinese people are so fond of raising to Western innovations vanish with amazing celerity when this energetic and determined Viceroy starts a pet project he has set his heart on having put through. *Feng-shui*, that national bugbear trotted out on every occasion to thwart the foreigner in any scheme for material improvement he has ever devised, is promptly brushed on one side by CHANG when it offers to confront him in the execution of his designs. Railways and roads can be made without more ado when he gives the order, mines may be opened, tall factory chimneys erected, and other innovations promoted, in defiance of this bugbear. No doubt His Excellency controls the local geomancers as readily as he does his servants, probably much more perfectly, for disorder and dirt were very conspicuous in his yamen when he governed the Two Kwang from Canton. But not only can he make the geomancers bless his undertakings; he can silence the tongues of the gentry and literati, and stop the gossip or tirades which are sometimes set freely going in the inns and public places. Whether this is due to his personal influence or whether it is brought about by experience of the uselessness of opposition to his will may be matter for speculation. That he is personally popular we can readily believe, for he is regretted to this day in the City of Rams on account of the purity of his administration as compared with that of his predecessors and successors. But even CHANG CHIH-TUNG it would seem cannot altogether prevent the understrappers in his yamen from playing the old game of "squeeze." CHANG has recently commenced the construction of a good carriage road at Nanking which is to be at once the wonder and the glory of the ancient capital of the Mings. A great many houses have had to be pulled down to make this grand highway, for which compensation was paid to the owners, and there are now about a score of carriages and a thousand jinrikshas running on the section so far completed, but it is reported that the owners of the vehicles are being hampered and obstructed by the petty mandarins, who desire to exploit them by levying squeezes on the traffic. It is to be hoped the enterprising road maker will learn in good time of these exactions. Unfortunately CHANG has fits of abstraction from public affairs, during which he will shut himself up and compose odes or bury himself in the classics. Perhaps the local mandarins have taken advantage of one of these intervals of pre-occupation on the part of the reforming magnate. It is to be hoped, however, that he will detect and punish this attempt to handicap his new project for the improvement of Nanking.

Count Kabayama and party arrived at Hiroshima from Formosa on the 27th February. Mr. J. W. Davidson, the newspaper correspondent, accompanied the party.

REVIEWS.

The China-Japan War. Compiled from Japanese, Chinese, and Foreign Sources. By VLADIMIR, lately of the * * * * * Diplomatic Mission to Korea. London: Sampson Low, Marston & Co. 1896.

VLADIMIR professes a preference for Japanese sources of information upon the war and is, we take it, a Japanese himself. The reasons for his preference are stated as follows:—"The Japanese have been uniformly fair to their adversaries, far more just than their own countrymen; and it has always been easier to find the truth in the histories of the victors than in those of the vanquished. The former have greater self-possession, see events more clearly, and can afford to be impartial." We can honestly congratulate Vladimir on the way in which he has discharged his task and cordially recommend his book to all who wish to have a comprehensive account of the late war, the causes which led to it, and the negotiations which brought it to a conclusion. The author's nationality appears very plainly, but he has endeavoured to write with an impartial mind and has succeeded as well as the average European would succeed in writing a history of a war of his own country. What reasons he may have had for adopting a *nom de plume* we do not know, but on the whole it is to be regretted that he did not let his own name, or at least his nationality, appear on the title page. His book would then have commanded more respect than it is calculated to do while the very title page is open to the charge of being misleading; it is put forward as the independent account of a European observer, whereas the discerning reader will discover before he has got very far into it that it is something different. This shakes his confidence a little, but on reading the book through, and looking at it for what it is, the work of a Japanese, he will arrive at the conclusion that the national bias of the author has been kept in due subjection and that his effort to give an impartial history has not been unsuccessful. If Vladimir has occasion to publish another book we would recommend him to give a little consideration to the ethics of *noms de plume*. A writer who does not wish to disclose his identity may legitimately adopt any designation not contrary to his real character, but it would be dishonest, for instance, for an Englishman to sign himself "A Japanese," or *vice versa*. This is a minor point of morals that we should think has never suggested itself to Vladimir, for in his narrative honesty of intention is a conspicuous feature and in striking contrast to the fiction of the title page.

The book is divided into three parts. The first part gives the history of the Korean question, the second is devoted to the Korean campaign, and the third to the campaign in China, while the appendices contain a useful collection of official documents, including the diplomatic correspondence preceding the war and in connection with the peace negotiations. In his history of the Korean question Vladimir carries us as far back as 1100 B.C., and, skimming over the intervening centuries, brings us down to modern times and the opening of the Hermit Kingdom to foreign intercourse. Here we make the following extract:—

"The old party denominations which had satisfied the Koreans for centuries and had sufficed to fill the country with bloodshed and strife, were inadequate to the new and strange conditions of the peninsula. A Progressionist and a Conservative party now arose, and each tried to find support in one of the neighbouring countries. The common name for China in Korea was Ta-kuo (the Great Country), and we know that nations are often willing to endure the greatest sacrifices to keep such proud designations. The Chinese felt that they had responsibilities in the peninsula, and were disinclined that it should become a practising ground for that form of civilisation which the Japanese had imported from the West and were desirous to acclimatise in the Far East. China was irresistibly led to give sooner or later her support to the Korean Conservative party. On the other hand, Japan felt herself bound to support the Progressive party, which aimed at continuing the policy in-

augured by the Treaties, and wished to introduce into Korea the foreign customs and learning adopted by the Eastern neighbour. The support of two opposite parties in a country which China and Japan wished to control was a sufficient cause to provoke a conflict between the two powers, but there was a still greater cause of danger in the distrust and suspicion which each felt for the other. Every political disturbance (and they happen often in a disordered country like Korea, which has been the prey of family feuds for centuries) was sure to be attributed to the machinations of the rival nations. The prudence of statesmen was able to defer the conflict, but it was not likely to prevent it indefinitely."

The course of the narrative brings us to the murder of Kim-Ok-Kiun at Shanghai by a fellow Korean. The murderer and the body of the murdered man were delivered up to the Chinese and then conveyed on board a Chinese man-of-war to Korea. On arrival in that country "rich rewards were heaped upon Hung, while the body of Kim-Ok-Kiun was quartered and the mutilated fragments exposed in the different provinces of the kingdom." Vladimir is severe in his condemnation of the policy pursued at Shanghai in connection with that affair. The murderer, he contends, should have been tried on the spot.

"Indeed it is regrettable that any foreigner should have forgotten the high mission which it behoves him to fulfil in China, where every European or American should consider himself as the pioneer of a nobler civilisation which has to be engrafted into the aged empire. The delivery of Hung and the body of Kim was a foolish and base action. It showed weakness, and it pandered to the vilest instincts of barbarism. It was sad that white men, forgetful of all the glories of their race, should descend from the high place to which they have been elevated by centuries of Christian and philosophical progress, and become accomplices in the shameful practices of the barbarous Government of Korea. But it is not necessary to waste words to stigmatise this action, because it brought its own punishment on all those concerned. The rest of this book will show that the false step taken at Shanghai was the primary cause of that acute state of the Korean question which led to the war between China and Japan. The war had already been prevented on two former occasions, and it might still have been averted for many years if further provocation had been spared to the excited political parties of the Korean Peninsula. China would not have lost thousands of lives and millions of money, and foreign merchants would not have suffered from a painful depression. If the step was taken in deference to the Chinese Government it showed an erroneous appreciation of the true aspects of the questions of the Far East; in that case, as in all others, the most friendly action towards China is firmly to prevent her committing those mistakes to which her ignorance of international law and usage renders her liable. True friends are never servile; they never renounce their convictions and their feelings to subserve the weakness and prejudices of those in whom they feel an interest."

An interesting account is given of the Tong Hak movement, started in 1859 by a religious visionary who had received some impressions from the Christian propaganda. Like the Taiping movement, it developed into a rebellion, and was the immediate cause of the recent convulsion.

"The Japanese Government considered the Tong-Hak movement not an accidental occurrence, but the inevitable consequence of the persisting misgovernment of the country, and argued that the rebellion could not be suppressed, nor its recurrence prevented, unless radical reforms were carried out in Korea. Japan proposed that reforms should be instituted, and asked China to assist her in enforcing them. China refused to join in such measures, not deeming them necessary, and not wishing to interfere in the internal affairs of the peninsula. The suggestion of the Japanese Government, which had thus created another difficulty, was a very clever move; it placed China in a dilemma: the misgovernment of Korea was evident and difficult to be denied, yet

China could not act against the party which caused the misgovernment, because they were her friends, and she had sent troops to support them. Notwithstanding these reasons, it would have been better for China to have accepted Japan's proposals; Korea, a poor country, was not worth a war, and the nominal suzerainty was only a question of puerile vanity."

Some critics have been severe in their condemnation of Japan for entering upon what has been termed an "unprovoked" war, and, as an aggravation of the offence, it is said she had been preparing for the conflict for years. A war between Japan and China to decide whether progressive or reactionary ideas should determine the policy of the Far East was inevitable sooner or later; circumstances precipitated the conflict, and Japan was found ready for it. By European countries preparedness for war is considered a primary duty, and it cannot be counted an offence that Japan should also have recognised it as a duty.

The war itself was such a very one-sided affair that it is impossible to make anything like a thrilling narrative out of it. The courage and ability were all on one side, the cowardice and corruption on the other. Such an unequal conflict affords but little data for judging what the Japanese might be capable of if they were opposed to a foe who would fight. What interest there is attaching to the operations of the war between China and Japan centres mainly in the naval encounters. Of the first of these, the fight at Phung Island, Vladimir adopts a view that is rather astonishing. Fong, the captain of the *Taiyuen*, who ran away and subsequently proved his cowardice again at the battle of the Yalu, is accorded unmeasured praise. "The fight of the *Taiyuen* and *Kwang-yi* with the three Japanese men-of-war, each of which would have been more than a match for both of them, was certainly," says Vladimir, "a plucky affair. It is the boldest action of the war—the only one in which the Chinese engaged overwhelming odds, and it is strange that Fong, the captain of the *Taiyuen*, was beheaded two months afterwards for cowardice. It is the duty of history to correct the mistakes and prejudices of the transient moment, when men's passions are excited and their judgment blinded; and against the hasty death sentence pronounced by literary mandarins ignorant of warfare, it is fair to adduce the opinion of the competent Japanese naval officers who had fought against Fong, and the testimony of the German engineer who had served on his ship." The fact is that Fong had no idea of fighting and when he fell in with the Japanese his sole object was to make good his escape, and he hoisted a white flag. If the circumstances of this fight were not sufficient to convict him of absolute cowardice, as those of the Yalu engagement were, there was certainly nothing plucky about his action.

We must conclude our notice of this interesting book with a humorous incident that occurred after the surrender of Wei-hai-wei. The *Kwang-ping* was a small vessel of the Canton squadron which was temporarily attached to the Peiyang squadron, and she was one of the vessels to be delivered to the Japanese. Her captain felt uneasy at having to return without his vessel, and he proffered a request that she should be given back, urging that she belonged to the Canton squadron, which had taken no part in the war. This comic request was afterwards repeated by Taotai Nui, who wrote to Admiral Ito as follows:—

"Excellency.—I have the honour to point out that the *Kwang-ping* belongs to the Kwangtung Squadron. In the spring of last year, at the usual inspection by Li-Chung-tang, the *Kwang-chia*, the *Kwang-yi*, and *Kwang-ping* came to attend the assembly of the Northern Squadron, and at its conclusion ought to have returned, but for certain reasons remained with the Peiyang fleet temporarily. The *Kwang-chia* and *Kwang-yi* have both been lost, and of the three Kwangtung ships only the *Kwang-ping* remains; Kwangtung had nothing to do with the present war, and if it loses all three ships we shall have no excuses to offer to the Kwangtung Commander-in-Chief. Should your Excellency, sympathising with us, restore the *Kwang-ping*, I promise that she shall no

again take part in the war. If you cannot consent to that, perhaps you will agree that the armament be taken from the ship, and her hull only be restored, in which case Chang Pi-kwang will not be disgraced, but will have some apology to offer to his commanding officer. Trusting that your Excellency will appreciate the situation, I await your reply."

A Mystery of Home Bay. By C. J. H. HALCOMBE, Author of "Called Out," "Tales of Far Cathay," etc., etc. Home Bay: James Watkinson.

Mr. HALCOMBE's friends in the Far East will be interested and pleased with the latest production of his fertile pen. In a little book of a hundred and twenty pages we have a sensational tale told in rather florid language and with an abundance of dramatic incident. Mr. Halcombe is a romancer pure and simple; he declines to be bound by any laws of probability, and instead of making his narrative centre, after the manner of most modern novelists, in a minute portrayal and dissection of character, he relies on quick movement and stirring events. The tale is told in the first person by the hero. We have a lovely heroine—the Queen of the Midnight Sea and the owner of a mysterious yacht—and three villains. The latter are disposed of by the hero and heroine on the cliffs, but never a word is said about the inquest, or how the bodies were dealt with. Finally the hero and heroine go off together in the yacht (no chaperone in the case) on a mission to rescue the heroine's father, detained by brigands in Spain. This is what transpired when the hero got on board:—

"I was remarking upon the cleanliness of everything aboard—especially of the guns, when my companion said enthusiastically, 'Not only my guns are clean and bright—but also my men.'"

"Mr. Clifford," she said, turning to an officer in uniform, "sound the assembly for the *Forlorn Hope*."

"Saluting in respectful acknowledgment of this command, he repeated it to the boatswain, who went forward, and then a bugle call rang out clear and musical."

"Come a little further aft," she said, a proud flash of zealous approval mantling her cheeks, as forty smart-looking British seamen appeared.

"Shoulder arms! close order! march!" were the commands issued, as the small company came marching aft with a fearless swinging step, commanded by its smart and dashing officers with drawn swords at the slope.

"Halt! order arms! 'tention!" were the final orders issued in a clear and manly voice as the men formed up.

"My heroine now stepped forward with me, and as we passed along the line, the men 'presented' arms."

"Splendid fellows!! Are they not?" she said, in a tremulous voice of deep admiration and regard, as we watched them march forward again. "Those men would follow me anywhere—and go to their death with a smile and cheer, if I were to order them on. They are typical Englishmen—noble fellows, every one of them; and I am proud of my command! And they are all sailors, and will form my crew for the return voyage."

The story ends rather abruptly and a sequel is promised.

The memorial on Christian Missions, recently presented to the Emperor, says the *Peking and Tientsin Times*, was of a very important character and we hope in due course to present our readers with a translation, if not of the whole document, of the substance of its contents. The idea of presenting some such memorial was thought of as long ago as the last Shanghai Missionary Conference, in 1889, though it was looked upon by many as a hopeless step to attempt. We now learn that, in response, the Emperor has ordered the Tsinchi Yamen to consult with Mr. Richard as to the best way of putting an end to missionary troubles, and has granted two out of the three requests made to him. Such a step taken by the Throne in the face of the highest ranks of officialdom, should have beneficial effect upon the policy of Viceroys and Governors throughout the Empire.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held on Tuesday afternoon in the Council Chamber. Present:—

HIS EXCELLENCY the Governor, Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON, K.C.M.G.

Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, Colonial Secretary.

Hon. H. E. POLLOCK, Acting Attorney-General.

Hon. A. M. THOMPSON, Acting Colonial Treasurer.

Hon. F. A. COOPER, Director of Public Works.

Hon. R. MURRAY RUMSEY, Harbour Master.

Hon. COMMANDER W. C. H. HASTINGS, Acting Captain Superintendent of Police.

Hon. C. P. CHATER.

Hon. HO KAI.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD.

Hon. E. R. BELLING, C.M.G.

Hon. J. J. BELL-IRVING.

Mr. F. J. BADELEY, Acting Clerk of Councils.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

THE REAPPOINTMENT OF DR. HO KAI.

Hon. Ho Kai took the oath of allegiance on his reappointment as member of the Council.

COST OF THE ADMINISTRATION.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I beg to give notice of the following question:—Will the Government lay upon the table a statement showing the total cost of the administration or the expenditure of the Government under the head of salaries, including allowances, pensions, exchange compensation, &c., for the year 1896?

PAPERS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I have the honour to lay upon the table the report of the Acting Captain Superintendent of Police for 1895, and the returns of superior and subordinate courts for 1895. I have also the honour to bring up the report of the Finance Committee, No. 1, and to move its adoption.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER seconded.

Carried.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS laid upon the table a report of the proceedings of the Public Works Committee held on the 11th February and moved its adoption.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER seconded.

Carried.

HIS EXCELLENCY—In reference to the item marked C in the Public Works Committee's report, respecting the construction of the new road from Victoria Gap to Mount Kellett, I have to say that I am decidedly in favour personally of the construction of the proposed road, because I consider the present road is not only exceedingly steep, but the wind at the Gap is extremely dangerous. The Treasurer, who holds the purse strings, was pointed out, however, that at the present moment there are no funds in hand to meet this expenditure, but I hope the unofficial members will accept the assurance that this road will be made at the earliest opportunity.

THE SANITARY BOARD ORDINANCE.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—Your Excellency, I rise to move the first reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to further amend the Public Health Ordinance. A memorandum explaining the objects and reasons is attached to the Bill.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER—I beg to second.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—Sir, I rise to move that the first reading of this Bill be postponed for a month.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Will it not be better to do that at the second reading?

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—Well, sir, on the 15th December last I asked for the papers, including the reports of the unofficial members, on this subject. These were withheld and your Excellency promised that they would be produced as soon as instructions had been received from the Secretary of State with regard to the Sanitary Board. The changes which this Bill propose to enact are so drastic, are so radical, and are so retrograde that I think

before acquiescing in the first reading of the Bill all the members of the Council should have an opportunity of perusing all the papers on the subject, including the correspondence between the Colonial Government and the Home Government and *vice versa*, and all other papers bearing on the subject. The postponement that I ask is only for a month; and as the sanitary affairs of the colony are still being looked after by the old Sanitary Board, I think business might be facilitated if the postponement be agreed to.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Does anyone second that?

Hon. HO KAI—Yes, I beg to second that.

HIS EXCELLENCY—It is moved by Hon. T. H. Whitehead and seconded by Hon. Ho Kai that the Bill be postponed for a month. Is that so?

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—Yes.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Personally I have no objection.

The first reading was accordingly postponed for a month.

THE REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg to move the first reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend and consolidate the law relating to the registration of Births and Deaths.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Bill read a first time.

THE VALIDITY OF ADMIRALTY DOCUMENTS.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg to move the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to prevent doubts as to the validity of documents heretofore sealed with the seal of the Colonial Court of Admiralty of Hongkong.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Bill read a second time.

Council went into Committee and the Bill passed through all its stages.

THE FACTORS ORDINANCE.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg to move the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend and consolidate the law relating to factors.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Bill read a second time and left in Committee.

Council resumed.

THE SALE OF GOODS ORDINANCE.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I rise, sir, to move the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance for codifying the law relating to the sale of goods.

Bill read a second time.

Council went into Committee.

Bill read clause by clause and one or two minor amendments were made.

Council resumed.

THE REGISTRATION OF A LIS PENDENS.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the practice as to the vacating of the registration of a *Lis Pendens*.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Bill read a second time.

Council went into Committee.

Bill passed through all its stages.

Council resumed.

THE EXTRADITION OF FUGITIVE CRIMINALS.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to provide for the extradition of fugitive criminals from the territory of the British North Borneo Company.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Bill read a second time.

Council went into Committee.

Bill read clause by clause and passed through all its stages.

THE INCORPORATION OF THE BASEL MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

Hon. C. P. CHATER—I beg to move the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance for the incorporation of the President in Hongkong of the Basel Evangelical Missionary Society. This is a Bill similar, sir, in every respect to those passed for the incorporation of the Spanish Procuration, the French Mission, and other charitable institutions. Its object is simply to facilitate the conduct of the business of this most excellent institution. On the last occasion I informed your Excellency that all the details respecting the introduction of a private Bill had been complied with to the satisfaction of the hon. and learned member the Attorney-General. I trust therefore that hon. members will have no objection to the second

reading of the Bill.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD seconded.

Bill read a second time.

Council went into Committee, and the Bill went through all its stages and passed.

THE SUITORS' FUNDS ORDINANCE.

Council went into Committee on the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the law as to certain moneys paid into the Supreme Court or to the Registrar thereof.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER pointed out that the Bill, as amended, exempted funds in the hands of the official trustee. He believed the object of the Bill was that all funds for which the Government was responsible should be placed in the custody of a Government officer. The present Bill would not carry out the object the Secretary of State had in view.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I have discussed the matter with the Acting Chief Justice and also with the Registrar, and they came to the conclusion that it would be advisable to amend the Bill so as not to include the moneys which the Registrar holds as official trustee or official administrator. There is a special Ordinance dealing with the duties of the Registrar as official trustee and also an Ordinance dealing with his duties as official administrator.

HIS EXCELLENCY—That is not in accordance with the Secretary of State's instructions?

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER—The Secretary of State's instructions will not be carried out.

HIS EXCELLENCY—I prefer to postpone the subject. That is all the—

THE SANITARY BOARD PAPERS.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I beg to give notice of the following question:—Will the Government lay upon the table a copy of the papers or correspondence between the Colonial Government and the Home Authorities and all other documents, including the reports or written opinions of the unofficial members, in connection with and on the subject of the Sanitary Board and its reconstruction?

ADJOURNMENT.

The Council then adjourned until next Tuesday week.

THE RECONSTITUTION OF THE SANITARY BOARD.

A Bill to reconstitute the Sanitary Board was introduced at the meeting of the Legislative Council on the 10th March, but on the motion of two of the unofficial members the first reading was postponed for a month to afford time for the tabling of the papers on the subject.

Section 1 gives the short title as the Sanitary Board Ordinance, 1896.

Section 2 provides that the Ordinance is to be read and construed together with the Public Health Ordinance, 1887.

Section 3 repeals sections 4, 7, and 11 of the principal Ordinance.

Section 4, which is the principal one of the Bill, reads as follows:—In lieu of section 4 of the principal Ordinance, the words following are hereby substituted:—The Board shall consist of three official members, viz., the Director of Public Works, the Captain Superintendent of Police and the Colonial Surgeon, and of two unofficial members to be elected by such ratepayers as are included in the special and common jury lists and also by such ratepayers as are exempted from serving on juries on account of their professional avocations or as members of Council. Non-official members shall hold office for three years, but are eligible for re-election. The Board, as thus constituted, shall have all the powers, privileges, and duties of the Sanitary Board as constituted heretofore.

Section 5 provides for the appointment or election of substitute members in case of retirement or absence.

Section 6 provides that three shall form a quorum.

The statement of objects and reasons is as follows:—

In paragraph 217 of their Report the Rectrenchment Committee commented as follows on the system of Sanitary Administration in the colony:—

"We would call the attention of the Government to this important Department (*i.e.*,

the Sanitary Department), with a view to the early consideration whether the whole sanitary system of the colony should not be placed on a different basis and all the sanitary arrangements and powers placed in the hands of one thoroughly competent officer who should be personally responsible to Government for all matters connected with the health of the colony and for the carrying out of all sanitary laws and regulations.

The above remarks were based upon the experiences gained in the plague epidemic of 1894.

The Government fully realized the importance of effecting a reform in the Sanitary Administration of the colony, and, in his opening address to the Legislative Council on the 28th of November, 1894, His Excellency the Governor publicly expressed his concurrence in the views of the Retrenchment Committee on the subject, and announced the intention of the Government to take action in that direction.

A few days previously the Unofficial Members of Council had been consulted by the Government and had recorded their opinions in writing, and copies of those opinions were duly forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies for his consideration, together with a Draft Bill for the reconstitution of the Board, which was framed upon the lines suggested by the majority of the Unofficial Members who were so consulted.

The Secretary of State has now approved of that Draft Bill, and has directed that it be introduced into the Legislative Council accordingly.

The objects of the Bill are, briefly:—

- (a) To expedite the despatch of public business by reducing the number of members on the Board.
- (b) To throw the primary responsibility for Sanitary Administration upon the Government, whilst retaining for the Government the benefit of the advice and assistance of representatives elected by the public.

THE REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS BILL.

The following are the "objects and reasons" attached to the Births and Deaths Registration Bill read a first time at Tuesday's meeting of the Legislative Council:—

The Ordinance re-enacts certain provisions of the Births and Deaths Ordinance, 1872, which it repeals, and it also incorporates certain sections of the Imperial Act for the registration of Births and Deaths (37 and 38 Victoria, Chapter 88).

This measure contains, however, a few entirely novel provisions, which will now be briefly touched upon.

Section 7, sub-section (b), has been framed with the object of obtaining particulars of birth in cases where children are admitted to convents or public or charitable or religious institutions.

Sub-sections (c) and (f) of section 11 are intended to prevent the removal or burial of dead bodies except under properly recognized authority.

Section 12, sub-section (a), alters the present law as to the legal obligations of ministers of religion. By section 11 of Ordinance 7 of 1872 the minister was liable to a fine if he did not, within seven days after performing the burial service, give notice to the Registrar-General in cases where no certificate or order for burial had been delivered to him. The proposed new sub-section renders the minister liable to punishment if he performs any funeral ceremony in cases where no proper authority for burial has been delivered to him.

Section 12, sub-section (d) (iv.), is intended to secure the correct and uniform classification of diseases in the death returns, and sub-section (e) of the same section confers upon the Registrar-General power to invoke the assistance of the Colonial Surgeon in cases where he is not satisfied as to the correctness of the reported cause of death.

The first of the ice-bound steamers, the *Lienshing*, arrived at Shanghai from Tientsin on the 29th February.

SUPREME COURT.

4th March.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HON. W. M. GOODMAN (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE.)

HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT AND AGENCY CO., LIMITED, v. W. G. BRODIE AND OTHERS.

The plaintiffs applied for a foreclosure decree absolute in the suit.

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q. C. (instructed by Mr. Ellis, of Mr. V. H. Deacon's office), appeared for the plaintiffs, and said the motion was made *ex parte*. An ordinary six months' decree of foreclosure had been made against the second mortgagees, but as at the expiration of that time the money due to the plaintiffs, amounting to \$108,091.69, was not paid, a decree absolute was now applied for.

His Lordship made a decree absolute foreclosing the second mortgagees, E. F. Duncanson, T. A. Melton, and the New Oriental Bank Corporation, Limited.

5th March.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE HON. W. M. GOODMAN (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE.)

RE EDWARD FRANK BIRCHALL.

The public examination of this debtor was closed, no creditors wishing to put any further questions, and the bankrupt then applied for a day to be fixed for hearing the application for his discharge.

His Lordship—Under sub-section 7 of section 27 of the Bankruptcy Act it is necessary that there should be not less than fourteen days' notice given before hearing the application for discharge. I had better fix this day three weeks as the day for hearing the application. I hope in the interval to hear of some more of the assets being collected.

WRECK OF THE "SPONDILUS."

News was received on the 10th March that the Shell Line steamer *Spondilus* was ashore on Cape Varela. The *Spondilus* left Hongkong on the 3rd March for Singapore. On the 6th she was sighted by the steamer *Holstein*, which was on a voyage from Saigon to Hongkong, ashore on Cape Varela. A telegram has since been received from Singapore reporting the safety of the crew, and stating that the *Spondilus* is likely to become a total wreck.

THE "HUMBER" ASHORE.

We were informed on the 5th March by Mr. W. Macbean, of the Straits Insurance Company, Limited, that a telegram had been received from Amoy stating that a British steamer, name unknown, was reported wrecked on the Pescadores and that a Japanese steamer had gone to her assistance.

We are indebted to Mr. Macbean, of the Straits Insurance Co., Limited, for the information that a telegram received from Amoy on the 5th March states that the vessel previously reported ashore on the Pescadores is the *Humber*, possibly from Japan to Hongkong, and that she is ashore on Sand Island.

It is not yet known in Hongkong whether the *Humber*, which went ashore on Sand Island on the Pescadores, was carrying coals from Moji to Hongkong or whether she was returning home, as no definite information has been received. It is presumed that no lives were lost because if such had been the case the telegram sent from Amoy would have mentioned the fact. The *Humber* is a steel screw steamer of 2,198 gross tonnage, and 1,417 register. She was built at West Hartlepool in 1888 by Messrs. W. Gray and Co., and she has triple expansion engines of 217 horse power and 150 lbs. pressure. She is a well decked vessel fitted with the electric light, and is owned by the Mercantile Steamship Co., Limited.

CENTENARY OF THE LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

PUBLIC MEETING AT THE CITY HALL.

A public meeting to commemorate the centenary of the London Missionary Society was held in the Theatre on the afternoon of the 4th March. The Hon. W. Meigh Goodman presided, and there were also present on the platform the Right Rev. Bishop Burdon, Rev. Dr. Chalmers, Rev. C. Bennett, Rev. T. W. Pearce, Rev. G. J. Williams, Rev. W. Musson, Commander R. H. L. Risk, R.N., Messrs. E. J. Eitel, D. R. F. Crawford, J. Dyer Ball, and Wong Shing, and others. There was a fairly large attendance of the general public, including a fair sprinkling of ladies.

The CHAIRMAN said:—Ladies and gentlemen, some time ago a deputation of gentlemen interested in the subject of Mission work called upon me and asked me to take the chair at a public meeting to be held in Hongkong to commemorate the centenary of the London Missionary Society. They told me that the meeting would be neither political nor sectarian in character, and that it would be attended by representatives of various societies interested in missionary enterprise. Now, although I was unaware of any special reason why I should have been selected to fill so prominent a position on such an occasion, I felt that, at all events, the deputation was conferring a great honour upon me in making the request, and sympathizing with the object of this meeting I accordingly agreed to do as they desired. When, however, I came to refer to the programme of proceedings which the promoters of the meeting had drawn up, I found the first item was "Introductory speech by the Chairman," and then, I must say, I felt some considerable diffidence, because it appeared I was desired to address you in the presence of men whose knowledge and experience of Missions and of Mission work must be so vastly greater than my own. But, indeed, a man must have a very cold heart and a very dull imagination if he can find nothing at all to say as he stands mentally contemplating the hundred years of life and work of the venerable London Missionary Society. It is the Society that sent men like Nott and John Williams to the South Seas, men like Robert Moffat and David Livingstone to Africa, men like Doctor Morrison and Dr. Legge to China; and hundreds of others who devoted their lives to the unselfish pursuit of what they deemed their duty to their fellow creatures. It would be strange if any man could study without emotion the lives of men like these. All true men love to hear of noble actions. Tell how the Victoria Cross was won upon a field of battle by the pluck and dash of one who risked his life to save that of a comrade, and you will never fail to find a sympathetic audience. All honour to the gallant soldier! But there is also another sort of heroism—the heroism of noble endurance and perseverance in the cause of truth, in the face of every discouragement, with no friendly voice to cheer, no friendly eye to witness. How often has such heroism been exhibited by missionaries who have devoted their lives, amidst uncongenial surroundings, to teaching what they held to be truths dearer to them than life itself. Such heroism has not been confined to one age or to one denomination. It was shown by St. Paul and others in the first century. It was shown by those who reclaimed Great Britain and the other countries of Europe from barbarism and pagan rites. It was shown by the great Jesuit missionaries, one of the first of whom was Francis Xavier. What a life was his! Consider what travel meant in the middle of the sixteenth century, and read then the records of those ten years from the day he landed at Goa to the day when, in 1552, he died at the Isle of St. John, not many miles from this Hall, worn out by malignant fever and at the threshold of that vast Chinese Empire he longed so ardently to enter, after having founded his mission in Japan and revisited India. Such heroism was shown by those Moravian brethren who, half a century before the founding of other Protestant Missions, laboured from the West Indian Islands to Ceylon to spread the knowledge of a better life. But it seems to me that the great revival of missionary enterprise began about a

hundred years ago. In a History of the 19th Century, written by Robert Mackenzie, occurs, incidentally, a short chapter on Christian Missions, and I will, with your permission, read a brief extract. Speaking of Protestant Missions, he says:—"In the foremost rank of powers destined to change the face of the world stand Christian Missions. These may almost be regarded as products of this century and the imposing magnitude which they have gained is altogether recent. Their beginnings were so small as generally to avert hostility by securing the contemptuous indifference of those who might have been unfriendly. There are few things in human history that wear an aspect of higher moral grandeur than the opening of what are now our great Missions. One or two men sent by this church and by that are seen going forth in obedience to a command spoken eighteen hundred years ago to begin the enormous work of undermining heathenism and reclaiming the world to God. Among the glories of the century is none greater than this. All other enterprises of beneficence must yield to this magnificent attempt to expel debasing superstitions and convey into every heart the ennobling influences of the Christian religion. The success already attained gives sure promise of results the greatness of which we, as yet, but dimly perceive. The early suggestion of Missions was received with disfavour. When in 1795 some good men invited the Church of Scotland to give encouragement to such enterprises the representatives of that body declined the invitation. They could not well argue against imparting to heathens that gospel which it was the business of their own lives to teach. Nevertheless the proposal was unacceptable. One clergyman deemed it visionary; another wished the result to be attained by prayer and waiting; a third saw revolutionary tendencies in every form of united action and trembled for the Constitution. On grounds such as these the Church of Scotland by an overwhelming majority refused to sanction missionary effort. But Scotland has nobly made up for that since.

A year or two later a young Scottish gentleman—Robert Waldane—resolved to sell his patrimonial estate and, along with two friends, to spend the remainder of his days in teaching the gospel to the people of Bengal. He applied to the directors of the East India Company for permission to reside in the country and follow this occupation. The directors declined, for weighty and substantial reasons, to admit within their domain any man who came on such an errand. Now this was the state of things at the very time the London Missionary Society was founded in 1795. That Society was founded in no sectarian spirit. Its founders and first constituents were connected with the Church of England, with various sections of the Presbyterians, and with the Congregational body, and the constitution of the Society was strictly undenominational. If christianity is a true religion surely its truths should be made known to all nations. The object of the London Missionary Society is the same as that of the Baptist Missionary Society, which is slightly its senior, the same as that of the many other societies which were founded later on. I take that object to be to spread the knowledge and benefits of christianity among the millions to whom they are alike unknown. Is not that a noble and beneficent object? Missionaries are human, and must sometimes make mistakes. But that is the noble and beneficent object of their ambition. To attain that object the London Missionary Society has laboured for a hundred years and it is to commemorate the centenary of that Society that we are assembled here to-day. I now call upon the Right Reverend Bishop to propose the first resolution.

The Right Rev. Bishop BURDON, who was received with applause, moved the following resolution:—"That this meeting congratulates the London Missionary Society on having completed one hundred years of work among the heathen; and with feelings of deep thankfulness to Almighty God for the blessing with which, in many lands, that work has been attended, assures the Society of continued interest in its labours." He expressed the pleasure he had in showing his sympathy with the London Mission-

ary Society and said they had not met there that day to discuss missions as carried on by different societies; plans and methods differed, but the principle of missions to such a people as the Chinese was the same in all. His Lordship spoke at length on the importance of mission work, especially amongst the Chinese, and, referring to Mr. Haylar's article in the *Nineteenth Century* and the passage—"There do not exist any reasons for the christianizing of China except from the standpoint of the missionaries themselves," he said that all the reason for the christianizing of the Roman Empire, by which England and other countries of Europe have benefited, still existed for the christianization of China. In conclusion his Lordship said—I do not know if there are any here old enough to remember in connection with former troubles in Ireland the title of "cheap police" as applied to certain ministers of the gospel there. Their teachings and their influence did far more towards the quieting of the country than all the efforts of the Government, and they cost the Government nothing. Missionaries are the "cheap police" of civilization in China. They live among people in country towns and villages, and use every effort to make friends among the people. They show themselves friendly, they open schools, they teach all that will listen, they give medical help to the sick. They get but small remuneration from their Societies. Many as we know have to take their lives in their hands in isolating themselves from the open ports, just as the early missionaries did in the Roman Empire. Sometimes these lead to naval demonstrations or demands for compensation, but the protection of foreigners as such, and not as missionaries, is the object aimed at. The last outrage—more awful in some of its details than any ever perpetrated in China—is outside of any possible compensation. No blood-money, however large, will ever be accepted, and no compensation in any form will ever be even discussed. It is men and women of this kind who are laying and will continue to lay the foundations of christianity in China. (Loud applause.)

Dr. FITZEL, in seconding the resolution, congratulated the London Missionary Society on having completed its centenary and referred in eulogistic terms to the good work which had been accomplished by the Hongkong branch.

The resolution on being put to the meeting was carried unanimously.

The Rev. Dr. CHAMBERS acknowledged the resolution on behalf of the London Missionary Society.

The CHAIRMAN—I will now call on the Secretary to make a statement regarding missions in Hongkong.

Mr. WATLING, one of the Hon. Secretaries of the Committee promoting the meeting, said—It has been arranged that at this point of the meeting a brief statement concerning the history of Christian missions in Hongkong shall be placed before you. That history is altogether different from that of many—perhaps of most—missions, and you will fail to appreciate the work done in this colony unless those differences are clearly understood. While, for instance, in India, in Polynesia, in Madagascar, and South Africa alike, the first Christian missionaries found old races long in possession of the soil; those who came to this island have from the first had to deal with a shifting and variable population, of recent importation, of differing languages, of (to a large extent) unsettled occupations, and possessing few of those characteristics of a long established community which in every age and country have been found to facilitate the introduction of Christianity. They have had to deal with men drawn by commercial and industrial considerations from their homes in the towns and villages of south-east China; men whose deepest interests lie in those homes, and who frequently return to them. Such removals may help to spread the gospel in China, but they necessarily tend to weaken the young churches here. And the constant tendency is to swamp the Christian community by fresh bodies of men and women drawn from the enormous population of the mainland. Nor has Christianity had many adventitious aids in its progress here. It has not acquired its influence by creating a written language, as in the islands of the South Seas, or both language and literature as in Madagascar, or by teaching

industrial arts as in South Africa. And it has not been backed by a powerful church as when it came to our own forefathers in Kent. Its history here has, in fact, resembled the general history of the colony. Situated as this island is just outside a great empire, it has been a good starting point, both as regards commerce and Christianity, for reaching the south of China. But the history of evangelization in the colony itself has not been for that reason without interest. Three of the great English societies—the Church, the London, and the Wesleyan Missionary Societies—have made a home here. They have had as comrades the Basel Mission, the Rhenish Mission, the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, the American Baptists, the Female Education Society, and the Berlin Foundling House, as well as the assistance of the Morrison Education Society and the Hongkong Tract Society, the latter of which has been supported by the two great institutions which do so much for Christian work in every land—the British and Foreign Bible Society and the Religious Tract Society. By their efforts have been founded five native churches in the island with over 600 members, who contribute the cost of their own public worship, help their own poorer members, supply teachers for schools, nurses for the sick, and evangelists for their own brethren on the mainland. From the very first it has been evident that to preach the gospel to adults and gather them into churches without at the same time affording to their children a Christian education was only to ensure that the work had to be done over and over again. And, consequently, you have in this colony over eighty schools where over 3,000 children (and many more before the plague) receive a Christian education. As with the schools, so with the hospitals. Over 75,000 out-cases and 6,000 in-cases (individual cases) have been dealt with in the last eight years. These are departments of philanthropic work which in England owe their origin, and very largely their continuance, to those great voluntary associations of which many of you are justly proud. In Hongkong you very largely owe both to the efforts of the agents of the missions which are represented here to-day. Some of these representatives have already spoken to you, and others will follow. They may well look to you for a full, hearty, and unanimous recognition of the difficulties they have faced, of the services they have done both you and the nation at whose doors we stand, and of the success which, at God's hands, has followed their work.

The Rev. J. G. WILLIAMS proposed the following resolution:—"That this meeting expresses its appreciation of the objects and the work of Christian Missions in this colony, and its hopes for their continued success."

The resolution was seconded by Commander RISK and supported by Mr. WONG SHING, and was carried unanimously.

The Rev. C. BENNETT replied on behalf of the Church Missionary Society and the Rev. T. W. PEARCE on behalf the London Missionary Society.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman, proposed by the Rev. W. MUSSON and seconded by Mr. D. R. F. CRAWFORD, brought the proceedings to a close.

ADVENTUROUS VOYAGE OF THE SCHOONER "ESMERALDA."

TERRIBLE SUFFERINGS OF THE CREW.

The British schooner *Esmeralda* arrived in Hongkong on the morning of the 9th March after a most sensational voyage, during which provisions ran short and the crew were literally starving. The *Esmeralda* trades between the Mariana Islands and Yokohama, and on this particular voyage she was taking a cargo of copra to Yokohama for Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. The last place of call was Pagan Island, which was left on December 27th, and the course was made direct for Yokohama. Light variable winds blew and very fair weather was experienced until January 6th, when the wind blew with tremendous force, and the small vessel was continually diving into the heavy confused sea. On that day Yokohama was within twenty-four hours' sail, but as events proved the vessel was not destined to get there. The storm increased in fury, and

about eleven o'clock in the morning a huge sea struck the craft, lurching her over and shaking the foretopmast out. The mast was hurled about the boat with every roll, but the forestay and the jumper stay prevented it from going overboard and the crew were in great danger of being struck, as it was impossible then to get the loose mast under control. To make matters worse the main topmast snapped and in its fall smashed through the hatch, but happily the damage was not very serious, and then the main boom gave way and was carried off, and in its career it smashed the spokes of the steering wheel. After much exciting work the crew managed to get both the foremast and main mast overboard, as this was deemed the wisest course to adopt as the sides of the vessel were threatened every minute with destruction. The boat was now quite dismantled, the gale continued, and the sea was altogether too rough to admit of the rowing boat being lowered. It was also impossible that day to put up jury masts, and the vessel drifted before a westerly wind. On the following morning the weather calmed somewhat, and the crew managed to erect a jury foremast and a jury fore yard out of the wreckage, and to make a square sail, but even then the gale was too strong for them to make headway against it and they were driven further out to sea. A week passed by before the crew were enabled to rig a jury mainmast, and in the interval they had been travelling further and further away from land. The makeshift masts and sails were practically useless to them as the wind continued to blow hard from the west and the vessel drifted before it in an easterly direction, and it was impossible for the crew to have any other but very gloomy forebodings for their future fate. Altogether there were eleven in the crew, consisting of the captain, Mr. J. T. Harrison, the first mate, Mr. D. H. Potter, the second mate, a cabin boy, six Japanese sailors, and one Chinese cook. When they left the Marianna Islands they had with them as provisions two piculs of rice, one bag of corn for some chickens, one bag of flour, and a few cans of meat. This stock had dwindled down very considerably and yet they were still drifting further and further away from land and quite out of the track of vessels. On, on they went, with sure starvation staring them in the face, and with no prospect of meeting another vessel, and themselves in a helpless condition. The crew hoped against hope that aid would at last come to them, but it was that hope deferred that makes the heart sick. The crew were forced to live on short rations and for many a long weary day they had to exist on about forty nuts for breakfast, a table-spoonful of tinned meat for dinner, and a few more nuts for tea. The supply of tinned meat was soon exhausted and the crew had to eat the cargo. Copra is about the most sickly kind of food for even a starving man. It consists simply of cocoanuts cut up into chunks, and is valuable for the oil that is extracted from it. The copra that these poor fellows had to eat was evil smelling stuff, and age had turned it rotten; even a starving pig on board refused to put his snout to it some days before the crew were driven to it themselves. The sufferings of the crew were indeed heart-rending. They were in a half famished condition, they suffered the agonising pain caused by an insufficiency of food, and death from hunger appeared certain. They had some fresh water on board, but of this they could only obtain a cupfull a day.

It was not until the 1st February that they got an east wind and their hopes, which were then almost at vanishing point, became higher. The jury masts and sails at last proved useful, but there was an immense space between them and Hongkong, for which port they resolved to shape their course, as they had been drifting on an average fifty miles a day. The wind was a very fair one, and on the morning of the 6th February they saw land for the first time since the awful gale; but the land was only an uninhabited island—the Uraccas Island, and it was useless to make a call there. The vessel came straight on to Hongkong and it was with feelings of immense joy that the crew took on board a pilot, on Sunday morning, who had brought with him a quantity of rice and

three or four fish. The food was ravenously devoured, but not in a large quantity; the crew had been so weakened by their sufferings that they found it impossible to eat without experiencing much pain and one or two of them were so emaciated that the food made them sick. Altogether the *Esmeralda* covered 2,300 miles, the furthest point they drifted to was about 2,000 miles from Hongkong, and not a single vessel was sighted for sixty-two days. The voyage was certainly one of the most adventurous we have had to record in these parts, and it may be taken for granted that the crew are deeply thankful for their providential escape.

QUARANTINE AT SINGAPORE.

The following was communicated to the Singapore papers by the local Government on the 27th February:—"Information having been received that foul bills of health are being issued in Hongkong on account of the plague, a special *Gazette* is being issued notifying that the port of Hongkong is infected, and imposing on all vessels arriving from Hongkong a quarantine of nine days from the date of departure from Hongkong or from the date of the last case of plague on board. The Health Officer has discretionary power to release vessels before the expiration of the nine days, which he will exercise in cases where it seems unlikely to imperil public health."—The *Straits Times* of the 28th says:—"It is improbable that the regular mail steamers from Hongkong will be quarantined at Singapore, unless there has been on board a case of bubonic plague."

The Hongkong Chamber of Commerce, having addressed the Government asking them to wire to Singapore asking that steamers from this port not carrying Chinese passengers might be exempted from quarantine, has received the following reply:—

Colonial Secretary's Office,
4th March, 1896.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 29th ultimo, I am directed to transmit for the information of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce the enclosed copies of a telegram despatched on the 2nd instant to the Colonial Secretary, Straits Settlements, and of his reply thereto.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

(Signed) J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary, Chamber of Commerce.

COPY OF TELEGRAM SENT TO THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, ON THE 2ND MARCH, 1896.

"Chamber Commerce applies for exemption from quarantine vessels without Chinese passengers. Please telegraph what exemptions allowed."—Secretary

COPY OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED FROM THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, ON THE 3RD MARCH, 1896.

"Exemptions at discretion of Health Officer, dependent on estimated risk to public health."

QUARANTINE AT BATAVIA.

The following telegram was received from Batavia on the afternoon of the 4th March:—"Colonial Secretary, Hongkong. Hongkong declared infected.—Consul"

THE WRECK OF THE BARQUE "LYNNWOOD."

MARINE COURT OF INQUIRY.

A Marine Court of Inquiry was held on the 5th March at the Harbour Master's office to investigate the circumstances attending the loss of the Nova Scotian barque *Lynnwood*, official No. 89,035, of Windsor, Nova Scotia.

The Court was constituted as follows:—Hon. Commander R. Murray Ramsey, R.N. (Stipendiary Magistrate), Commander A. Henderson, R.N., H.M.S. *Immortalité*, Mr. J. R. Galsworthy, master British steamship *Sin Sang*, Mr. J. Williamson, master British steamship *Chow-fa*, Mr. W. J. Dermody, master British barque *Highland Forest*.

The letter of Mr. John Ross, the master of the *Lynnwood*, whose certificate of compet-

ency is 2,003, Canada, applying for an inquiry was read.

Mr. John A. B. Ross, the master, was the first witness. He said—I have been in command of the barque *Lynnwood* seven years. I was on a voyage from Shanghai to Manila, and we left Shanghai river on the 10th February. There was a N.E. gale and snowstorm on the 9th, and on the 10th there was a northerly gale, and we steered out east. On the 11th there was an E.N.E. gale and we steered S.S.E. from the Suddies. At night the wind increased. Up to the 12th we had thick weather and snowstorms, and we could not take observations by the sun, so the ship was worked by dead reckoning. I have lost my memorandum with the ship, and the mate's log has also been lost. On the 13th it was blowing hard and raining heavily and I hove to because I did not consider it prudent to run on as I could not see land or any lights. I was then entering the Formosa Straits. I also hove to on the night of the 14th as I could see neither light nor land. At noon on the 15th the wind was N.E. to E.N.E. and I steered S.E. with the patent log over. On the morning of the 16th I was on deck keeping watch. The sky was overcast and the weather thick, and we were going about eight knots, and were under light sail. At 1.30 a.m. I saw a white streak right ahead, and we attempted to wear the ship, but she fell off to S.S.W. and then struck a rock on the Pratas reef. We tried to get her off, but the wind drove her further on and she was striking heavily. We then cleared the boats away, and at daylight (6 a.m.) I saw that the ship was in a helpless condition and that she could not last long. At 10 a.m. we lowered the boats and left, as the masts were working badly and I considered it safest to leave. We landed on a small island, made some preparations, and then started for Hongkong in two boats. We abandoned one boat on the second day out, and the next day we were picked up by the Russian man-of-war *Vladimir Monomach*, about sixty miles from Hongkong. We were taken on board and the boat was towed close in to Gap Rock lighthouse, where we got into the boat again. We lay there until the next morning, when we were picked up by the German steamer *Cassius* and brought to Hongkong. Bearings by the compasses were taken at Shanghai and no deviation was found. I had not been the voyage between Shanghai and Manila before. When I set my course S.E. on the 15th I judged it would take me at least forty miles eastward of the Pratas reef. We sighted nothing at all after the 11th and we had no observations. We saw no stars; the weather was too thick. We used the lead on the 15th, and during the time we hove to; twenty-two fathoms was the last sounding we got. From the soundings and the look of the water I estimated that we were off the Formosa Bank about 2 p.m. on the 15th. I allowed for the heave of the sea in the reading of the patent log. I cannot say why the mate's log and other books were not saved, except that in the confusion and hurry they were overlooked.

The President remarked that it was decided to leave the vessel at six a.m. but she was not left until 10 a.m., and it always looked better in these cases when all the charts, logs, and work books were produced.

Witness, continuing, said—We saved the chronometer, charts, the official log, and the ship's register and papers. I have not found any deviation in the ship's compasses since I took command, except once when I was in the English Channel. We had a cargo of petroleum, but the deviation was not very much. There was only one compass on deck. It was a spirit compass, and was on the after part of the deck house about two feet from the wheel. I had always used the compass as a standard and for steering by. There were two other compasses in the ship—one in the cabin and one in my room. We altered the course to S.E. at noon on the 15th. Previous to that I had been taking the distances run by the patent log. I did not use the hand log. We hove to the first time for six hours, and for the second time ten hours, and I made allowances for the drift. The mate and I kept the dead reckoning independently and compared results, which were satisfactory.

Mr. Michael Courtney, the first-mate, said he held a master's certificate. He spoke to working

the dead reckoning, and added that he had never found any error in the compasses, and he was satisfied there was no deviation in them. The patent log had been tested many times by observations and found to register correctly.

The following was the finding of the Court—We find that the British barque *Immacuata* (80,035), of Windsor, N.S., of which John A. B. Ross was master, whose certificate of competency as master No. 2063, of Canada, left Shanghai in ballast for Manila on the 10th February last. Fresh northerly and north-easterly winds with rain and overcast weather were experienced after leaving the Suddles, and on the morning of the 16th at 4 a.m. the ship struck on the N.E. edge of the Pratas Shoal and was afterwards abandoned; the master and crew taking to the boats were picked up first by the Russian man-of-war *Vladimir Monomach* and afterwards by the German steamer *Cassius*, which latter ship brought them into Hongkong. Having carefully examined the evidence of the master and first mate the Court is of opinion that the ship was navigated in a proper and seamanlike manner, though it would seem that if an additional compass had been placed on deck as a standard it might have assisted towards the more efficient navigation of the ship. The cause of the casualty appears to have been that the distance run on the S.W. course through the Formosa Straits was under estimated, placing the ship more westerly than her supposed position when the course was altered to S.E. But the patent log was carefully used, and due allowance appears to have been made for the current drift and heave of the sea. No observations of the sun or stars were possible during the voyage, and the position of the ship was depending on the dead reckoning only. After the casualty everything was done that proper seamanship suggested and the ship does not appear to have been prematurely abandoned. Under the circumstances the Court sees no reason to deal with the certificates of the captain and the first mate.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA, LIMITED.

The fifth ordinary annual general meeting of the shareholders of the National Bank of China, Limited, was held in the Bank's premises, Queen's Road Central, on Saturday, at noon. Mr. Herin Stokkerfelt presided, and there were also present—Messrs. Chow Tung Shang, Chan Kit Shan, Qwan Hoi Chuen (Directors), George W. F. Playfair (Chief Manager), J. H. Cox, W. H. Potts, E. J. Hagen, C. S. Manners, Tung Wa Chung, and a number of Chinese shareholders.

The SECRETARY read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, your directors, in submitting to you the accounts and report for the past half year, are happy to continue presenting to you satisfactory evidence of the Bank's progress. The accounts have been in your hands some weeks, and you will have seen that besides paying the same dividend as before, i.e., 2/6 per share, your directors propose placing \$20,000 to reserve, carrying forward \$4,218.84 to next account. Although the year 1895 could not be called by any means a good year for banking profits, your directors have every reason to be satisfied with the position of the Bank. On comparing the items in the accounts you will see steady progress has been made—fixed deposit, current, and other accounts show an increase during the twelve months of \$600,000, and bills receivable, loans and advances an increase of over 1½ million dollars, or a total of \$1,437,000, of which loans and advances are only \$886,500, thus showing that our funds are kept in a very liquid condition. Furniture, stationery, and stamps show a small increase, principally owing to our having moved into new offices in Yokohama, where we had to build a treasury, &c., for ourselves. Our note issue, though limited and small, is evidently appreciated, as over nine-tenths of our total issue is constantly in the hands of the public. Speculation in the silver market in London has had some effect in raising the price of silver, and consequently of our Eastern exchanges, but apart from these more or less

spasmodic influences the increasing output of gold in Africa and Westralia must be exercising a certain real effect in checking the appreciation of gold which had been steadily going on for the last twenty years, and therefore we may confidently hope that we shall never again see the dollar at such a low level as it touched in the year 1894. As we only meet here yearly, your directors do not think it necessary to continue the intermediate half-yearly statement, but will in future issue one statement for the whole twelve months. With these remarks, gentlemen, I now beg to move that the accounts and report be adopted and that a dividend of 2s. 6d. per share be paid.

Mr. CHUN HE—I have much pleasure in seconding the Chairman's resolution that the report and accounts be adopted.

Carried.

Mr. WO YIK TAI proposed that Mr. Gillies and Mr. Chow Tung Shang be re-elected directors and that Mr. Buttery be re-elected a member of the London Committee.

Mr. SEE FONG CHENG seconded.

Carried.

Mr. CHUNG WA KEE proposed that Mr. J. H. Cox and Mr. W. Hutton Potts be re-elected auditors at the remuneration of \$300 per audit and that Messrs. Deloitte, Dever, Griffiths and Co. be re-elected auditors in London at the remuneration of twenty-five guineas.

Mr. CHAN FAT MAN seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—I have to thank you, gentlemen, for your attendance. Dividend warrants will be ready on Monday.

HONGKONG HOTEL CO., LIMITED.

The ordinary meeting of shareholders in the Hongkong Hotel Company, Limited, was held on the 6th March, at noon, at the hotel. Mr. R. C. Wilcox presided, and there were also present—Messrs W. Parfitt, E. Osborne (Directors), A. Fonseca (Secretary), W. H. Potts, W. H. Gaskell, A. Sharp, A. Coutts, Ho Fook, Tai Tak, Ip Che Fong, Chan Chau Nam, Loung Tit Shan, She Po Shan.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen,—The report and statement of accounts having been in your hands for some days, I propose, with your permission, to take them as read. It is with some small measure of satisfaction that your directors are able to point to a substantial increase of business and a not less appreciable increase in revenue during the past half-year. As you will observe from the report, the profit on the working account for the six months was \$24,259.56 as compared with \$5,714.06 for the like period of 1894, being an increase of \$18,545.50. A good deal of the profit was of course swallowed up in interest, and we have been compelled to write off a considerable sum for bad debts contracted prior to 1895. I am glad to say that we practically do almost everything on a cash basis now, and have made scarcely any bad debts since we abolished the chit system as formerly permitted. In addition to the sum written off for bad debts, we have made sundry very necessary additions to furniture and various improvements to the building, which, although they make little or no external show, add considerably to the comfort of visitors and were indispensable to the efficient working of the hotel. The actual credit balance, after these deductions, is only \$8,175.38, but when compared with \$576.92, the sum shown at credit in the same half of 1894, and a very substantial debit balance in the corresponding six months of 1893 it is at least something to be thankful for. The directors are anxious, however, that shareholders should not attach undue importance to these figures and hasten to the conclusion that a dividend is necessarily in sight. It was not without good reason we decided to recommend the appropriation of the balance mentioned in the report. No adequate sum has been written off furniture for years, and it is idle to pretend that it has not depreciated. Much of the bedroom furniture in the old building requires complete renewal, and if the rooms in it are to be placed on anything like a par with those in the new building new carpets and a large proportion of new furniture will have to be provided. Turning to another department, I may men-

tion that the table appointments are not exactly what we could wish to see them. Apart, however, from these and other most desirable improvements, which may be expected to bring some return in the shape of increased revenue by rendering the hotel more attractive, there are other directions in which unavoidable outlay at an early date has to be faced. The boilers which supply the motive-power for the lifts and the hot water baths, cooking, &c., are not only, I regret to say, inadequate for the work, but, having seen long service, are now reported thin and much worn. Indeed, we are advised by our engineer that one of them will shortly have to be replaced at a cost of nearly \$3,000. The pumps which supply the tanks for the lifts are not large enough for the purpose; hence the slow rate of speed at which the passenger lift works. When the hotel is full of guests the slowness of the lift becomes a rather serious drawback, one that we should greatly like to see remedied. Turning to the building itself, I am glad to say that, owing to constant supervision, it is in fair order, but externally it requires colour washing and painting. You will see, therefore, how necessary it is for the directors to retain some money in hand for improvements, renewals, and repairs. Unfortunately we cannot count upon a steady continuance of the business we are now doing throughout the year. It must not be forgotten that the season this winter commenced unusually early, and there has been more movement from Europe and America. No doubt the stream of globetrotters is on the increase, but it is fitful, and next year may see another comparatively dull season. We can at best only deserve success in this business; we cannot command it. There are other causes by which our business may be adversely affected. The last outbreak of plague did us great injury, and another epidemic of it would certainly prove disastrous, for although the disease is now known to pass by the Western races there are plenty of timid persons to whom it is a very real terror. Now that the port is declared infected we shall find, I fear, a good many will shun it or shorten their stay here. I have mentioned these contingencies in no pessimistic spirit, but simply from a desire to prevent too sanguine anticipations being hastily formed. At the same time we have grounds for hope for the future, when we shall see our indebtedness diminished and be able to count on dividends. We have already crossed the morass of impecuniosity and though we have not yet reached the solid rock of prosperity there is every reason to believe we are on the way thither. I have only to add that I shall be happy to answer any questions any shareholders present may wish to put.

There were no questions and the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. COURTS—I have much pleasure in seconding the adoption of the report and accounts.

Carried.

Mr. HO FOOK—I beg to propose that the retiring directors, Messrs. R. C. Wilcox and W. Parfitt, be re-elected.

Mr. GASKELL—I beg to second that.

Carried.

Mr. COURTS proposed the re-election of the retiring auditors, Messrs. W. H. Potts and W. H. Gaskell.

Mr. SHARP seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business before the meeting.

We (*China Gazette*) are courteously informed that a telegram has been received at Shanghai stating that the Japanese Government has decided to open new consulates at Shashi, Chungking, and Amoy, in addition to those already mentioned at Soochow and Hangchow. Mr. Eitaki, Vice-Consul at Shanghai, has been promoted to be Consul at Shashi. Mr. Kato, Chancellor at the Consulate at Shanghai, has been appointed Consul at Chungking, Mr. Ueno, Consul at Gensan, has been transferred in a similar capacity to Amoy, while Mr. Arakawa, at present Consul at Tientsin, has been, as we have already stated, appointed Consul for Soochow and Hangchow.

THE CHINA AND MANILA STEAMSHIP CO., LIMITED.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the thirteenth ordinary general meeting to be held at the office of the General Managers on Saturday, 28th March:—

Annexed we beg to submit to shareholders the usual annual statement of accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1895.

The net profit, including the balance from last year, amounts to \$35,974.02, which it is proposed to deal with as follows, viz:—

To place to reserve fund	\$10,000.00
To pay a dividend of 10 per cent.	25,000.00
To carry forward to next year's account ..	974.02

The *Zafiro* returned to the line, after completing the repairs necessitated by her accident on 19th January, 1895, and both steamers ran regularly throughout the year, stopping only for docking and painting. Rates of freight ruled steady during the twelve months and with cheaper fuel the result is a considerable improvement on that of last year, allowing of a dividend of 10 per cent. as against 7 per cent. for 1894. The *Zafiro* underwent her No. 3 survey in January and the *Emeralda* her No. 1 survey in July, 1895. Both vessels are in first class order.

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

Mr. J. S. Moses resigned on leaving for home and Mr. M. D. Ezekiel was appointed in his place. His appointment requires confirmation. Mr. Gillies was granted leave of absence and is expected to return shortly. In accordance with the articles of association Messrs. Gillies, Siels, and Shewan all retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. J. H. Cox and T. Arnold. Messrs. Cox and Arnold are eligible for re-election.

SHEWAN & Co., General Managers.

Hongkong, 6th March, 1896.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT, FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1895.	
Consulting Committee	\$ 2,000.00
Auditors' fees	300.00
Interest account	55.42
Exchange account	824.50
Charges account	1,181.75
Amount written off for depreciation 1895	23,201.68
Balance	\$35,974.02
	\$63,537.37

Balance from last account	\$18,814.40	\$ c.
Less dividend for 1894	17,500.00	
	1,314.40	
Profit on working steamers <i>Emeralda</i> and <i>Zafiro</i>	60,303.59	
Profit on stores	1,803.28	
Profit on forfeited shares 1893	79.10	
Dividend on fractional certificates	14.00	
Amount transferred from bad and doubtful debts	23.02	
	\$63,537.37	

BALANCE SHEET.

ASSETS.		\$ c.
Value of Company's steamers <i>Emeralda</i> and <i>Zafiro</i>	\$243,000.00	
Less depreciation written off	23,000.00	
	220,000.00	
Value of buoys and moorings at Amoy and Hongkong	\$701.68	
Less depreciation written off	201.68	
	500.00	
Value of coals on hand	255.75	
Value of stores on hand	3,529.98	
Premium value of unexpired policies	9,526.87	
Outstanding freight 1895	27,830.41	
Sundry debtors	13,461.08	
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	41,114.49	
Cash on hand	779.56	
	\$316,798.14	

LIABILITIES.

Capital, 5,000 shares at \$50 per share	250,000.00
Underwriting account	5,526.82
Sundry creditors	18,306.30
Due to General Managers	6,991.06
Balance of profit and loss account	35,974.02
	\$316,798.14

One of the self-imposed tasks Li Hung-chang undertook when he went last year to Peking was to head a subscription list amongst the Princes and highest dignitaries in the capital to help the Imperial family to renew the Yuen-mingyuan Palace. A pretty large sum has been subscribed in this way and work will begin next month.—*N. C. Daily News.*

HONGKONG ROPE MANUFACTURING CO., LIMITED.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the twelfth ordinary general meeting to be held at the office of the General Managers on Saturday, 21st March:—

Annexed we have the pleasure to lay before shareholders the usual annual statement of accounts made up to the 31st December, 1895.

The net profit including the balance brought forward from last year amounts to \$83,486.08, which it is proposed to appropriate as follows:—

To place to reserve fund	\$65,000.00
To pay a dividend of 10 per cent.	15,000.00
To carry forward to next year's account ..	3,486.08

As it has now become necessary to increase the capacity of the factory by enlarging the building and making considerable additions to the plant, &c., it is intended to raise the capital to \$250,000 by issuing 2,000 shares of \$50 each, in payment of which the sum of \$100,000 from the reserve fund will be applied. The necessary resolutions for effecting this will be proposed at an extraordinary meeting to be held after the close of the ordinary meeting.

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

In accordance with the articles of association Messrs. Lewis and Shewan retire, but offer themselves for re-election. Messrs. Gillies and Moses resigned on leaving for home and Messrs. T. I. Rose and M. D. Ezekiel were respectively appointed in their places. These appointments now require confirmation.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. T. Arnold and F. Henderson, who are recommended for re-election.

SHEWAN & Co.,

General Managers.

Hongkong, 2nd March, 1896.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT, FOR THE YEAR 1895.	
Consulting Committee's fee	\$ 1,000.00
Auditor's fee	300.00
Written off buildings and machinery as depreciation for the year 1895	5,000.00
Balance	\$83,486.08
	\$89,786.08
Balance brought forward from 1894	\$ 4,152.02
Interest and dividends on investments ..	1,906.63
Exchange	47.71
Bad and doubtful debts recovered	274.95
Balance of working account	\$3,404.77
	\$89,786.08

BALANCE SHEET.

ASSETS.		\$ c.
Cost of land	\$20,000.00	
Value of factory, machinery, &c., as per last statement	\$100,000.00	
Less depreciation for 1895	5,000.00	
	95,000.00	
Value of rope, hemp, &c., in godowns ..	40,847.41	
Value of rope on consignment	\$48,540.54	
Less advances on same	11,144.56	
	37,395.98	
Fire insurance premium account 1896 ..	928.25	
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation ..	25,263.29	
Cash in hand	1,057.66	
Cash at factory	25.00	
Sundry debtors	12,021.05	
Investments in shares of local companies, viz.: 200 shares Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Co., Limited	45,930.00	
100 shares China Traders Insurance Co., Ltd. 50 shares Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Limited		
50 shares Yangtze Insurance Association Co., Limited		
200 shares Douglas Steamship Co., Limited ..	45,930.00	
	\$278,470.64	

LIABILITIES.

Capital, 3,000 shares at \$50 paid up	150,000.00
Reserve fund	35,030.00
Sundry creditors	2,954.56
Balance of profit and loss account	83,486.08
	\$278,470.64

THE STRAITS INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

The following is the twelfth annual report for presentation to the shareholders at the nineteenth ordinary general meeting to be held at Singapore on the 12th March:—

To the shareholders of the Straits Insurance Company, Limited.

Gentlemen.—Your directors beg to place before you

the annexed balance sheet for the year ended 31st December, 1895. The accounts have been adjusted at the exchange of 2/2 per dollar.

1895.—The next premiums for the year 1895 amount to \$1,108,569.62 (£120,095.0.9), on which claims have been settled up to 31st December last, amounting to \$390,854.52 (£41,259.49).

Commission and expenses amount to \$139,377.62 (£20,515.18.2).

The balance of \$538,337.48 (£58,319.17.10) is carried forward.

1894.—The settlements on account of 1894 and previous years amount to \$382,312.20 (£41,417.3.1). To close the account the sum of \$30,000 (£3,250) has been transferred to underwriting suspense account and the balance remaining \$36,835.40 (£3,995.18.5) has been transferred to profit and loss account.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

The interest on investments amounts to \$53,267.57 (£5,770.13.1). After deducting 10 per cent. dividend (\$60,000) paid in 1895, 15 per cent. \$1,500 (£162.10.0) written off stock and furniture account, and \$5,514.74 (£597.8.7) loss on investments realised, there remained a balance at credit of profit and loss account of \$98,309.21 (£10,605.3.4), from which the following appropriations have been made:—

To reserve fund	\$20,000.00
Employer's guarantee and provident fund ..	3,000.00
leaving a balance of	75,309.21

The Board now recommend that there be declared a dividend of 10 per cent. per annum for the year 1895, absorbing \$60,000, and that \$15,309.21 (£1,658.10.0) be carried forward to new profit and loss account.

DIRECTORS.

In accordance with the provisions of clause 105 of the Company's articles of association, the Hon. T. C. Bogaardt and the Hon. G. S. Murray retire from the Board, but offer themselves for re-election.

On their departure from the colony Mr. D. C. Neave and Mr. A. H. Raeburn resigned their seats at the Board, and their places have been filled by the appointment of Mr. P. C. Hoyne Van Papendrecht and Mr. A. W. Stiven.

AUDITORS.

Mr. J. Lyall having gone from the colony on leave, Mr. P. T. Evatt was appointed auditor to act during Mr. Lyall's absence.

In accordance with clause 146 of the Company's articles of association, Mr. P. T. Evatt and Mr. R. Dunman retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

T. C. BOGAARDT, } Directors.

T. S. THOMSON, }

Singapore, 27th February, 1896.

BALANCE SHEET, 31st DECEMBER, 1895.

Dr.		\$ c.
To capital fully subscribed, 30,000 shares at \$100	3,000,000.00	
To capital paid-up	600,000.00	
To reserve fund	160,000.00	
To reserve for exchange and investment fluctuation	100,000.00	
To reserve for renewal of buildings	3,220.00	
To reserve for equalisation of dividends ..	30,000.00	
To underwriting suspense account	30,000.00	
To balance of working account, 1895	538,337.48	
To balance of profit and loss account	75,309.21	
To unclaimed dividends	1,506.00	
To sundry creditors	10,176.78	
	\$1,548,549.47	

Cr.

By cash on current account with Banks, Singapore, China, &c.	20,871.81
By fixed deposits in Banks, Singapore	110,000.00
By real estate owned by the Company, Singapore	116,880.68
By mortgages of real estate, Singapore	225,500.00
By municipal and other debentures, Singapore	96,000.00
By Chinese Imperial Government loan	15,304.34
By agency balances and sundry debtors for premiums, &c.	67,873.59
By branch and agency balances, London, &c.	113,933.96
By cash on current account with Banks, London, &c.	19,660.73
By fixed deposits with Banks, London, &c.	41,538.46
By Government and municipal bonds and stock, London, &c.	445,056.54
By freehold office premises, London	257,904.54
By remittances in transitu, London	9,397.18
By furniture and stock at head office and branches	8,576.85
By cash in hands of cashier	51.81
	\$1,548,549.47

WORKING ACCOUNT, 1895.	
Dr.	\$ c.
To net premiums from 1st January to 31st December, 1895, after deducting re-insurance and return premiums	1,108,569.62
	\$1,108,569.62

Cr.	\$ c.
By head office charges	47,522.42
By branch and agency charges	101,230.76
By commissions	20,430.07
By exchange	932.82
By directors, committees and auditors' fees	9,281.15
By losses and claims paid	380,551.52
By balance	538,337.48
	\$1,108,569.62

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.	
Dr.	\$ c.
To balance at 31st December, 1894, profit and loss	\$74,871.98
Less dividend 10 per cent.	60,000.00
	14,871.98
To balance of working account at 31st December, 1894	449,197.60
To interest on investments	53,267.57
To transfer fees	299.00
	\$517,636.15

Cr.	\$ c.
By claims, re-insurances, and return premiums paid on account 1894 and previous years	382,312.20
By loss on investments realised	5,514.74
By transfer to underwriting suspense to close 1894 account	30,000.00
By transfer to furniture and stock account	1,500.00
By transfer to reserve fund	20,000.00
By donation to guarantee and provident fund.	2,000.00
By balance	75,309.21
	\$517,636.15

HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

OPENING OF THE NEW CLUB HOUSE.

The new club house, which has been erected at the Happy Valley by the Hongkong Golf Club, was formally opened on the afternoon of the 4th March by Commodore Boyes. The ceremony was a most interesting and happy one, but owing to the continuous rain which fell during the whole of the afternoon the function was robbed of the presence of his Excellency the Governor, Admiral Buller, Major-General Black, and many ladies and gentlemen who had promised to attend, and, although those who braved the weather spent a very pleasant time in the new house, the rain had the effect of completely spoiling the enjoyment which would otherwise have been experienced out of doors.

Golf has made very rapid strides in Hongkong, and at the present time the fascinating game is indulged in to a very large extent in the colony. The Club was started in 1889, and it had a very small beginning. At first only thirteen gentlemen—and they had, we believe, a very crude notion of the game—volunteered to establish a foothold for golf, and their first meeting room was situated in a corner underneath the grand stand on the racecourse. About four years ago the membership had increased to such proportions that it was decided to build a mat shed for the accommodation of golfers, but this primitive kind of building was altogether inadequate to meet the increasing requirements, and the members resolved to erect a permanent structure. Mr. E. A. Ram kindly volunteered to design the Club's new house, and as he is himself a very enthusiastic golfer, he knew exactly what was wanted. His efforts have resulted in the erection of an exceedingly commodious building, and one which, if it does not claim any special architectural pretensions, is admirably suitable for the Club. The structure is of stone, and the principal entrance is from the race course side. The Club room is a very good sized one, and surrounding it are the numerous lockers belonging to the members. At one end is the stone tablet reserved for the names of each year's champion. There are only two names up at the present moment, the 1894 champion being Captain H. N. Dumbleton, R.E., and the 1895 champion Dr. J. A. Lowson. In passing we might mention, in connection with the tablet, that, as is customary with Chinese sign-board artists, full points and inverted

commas are stuck indiscriminately amongst the recorded names, and they are omitted where they should be inserted. Of course this is not the fault of the Club, but it will be as well to obliterate these "ships" of the chisel and brush and guard against similar errors in future. On one side of the Club room is a capitol dressing room in which are all conveniences for members, and at the other end is the indispensable bar and the equally indispensable caretaker's room. The building will be very cool in the summer, and a fire in the large grate in the Club room will make the place very snug and comfortable in the winter. The Club is certainly one of the most successful institutions in the colony. There are now 116 members, and as the Commodore humorously remarked in his speech, even the worst players can find somebody worse than themselves, so no one need be backward in joining the Club on the score of inferior playing. One of the first things a man learns on joining a golf club is that the proper, or at any rate the accepted, pronunciation of the name of the game is "goff," and no forgiveness is accorded the man who is stupid enough to include the "L" in the pronunciation of the word after being two minutes in the presence of golfers. We do not know the origin of the game—many people assert that golf was first played by the Indians or Persians—but there can be no doubt that it is one of the most unselfish games, as people of all ages can take part in it. It is also, we believe, a game that does not cause one to break out into unparliamentary language, and it is said there is only one case on record where the least sign of using strong language was observed. A Scotch meenister was playing and he happened to make a very unsuccessful stroke. "Ah," he said "I shall ha' to gie it up." "What, goff?" asked a sympathetic bystander. "Nay, the meenistry."

The proceedings yesterday were commenced by Commodore Boyes, who made an amusing speech in which he referred to the small beginning of the Club. Then Mrs. Rumsey, the wife of Hon. R. Murray Rumsey, the captain of the Club, unfurled the Club flag, and wished the Club success, after which cheers were given, and Commodore Boyes having declared the Club open, the ladies and gentlemen present had tea. A group was afterwards photographed outside the Club premises, and this done, the ladies' competition was proceeded with. It says much for the plucky enthusiasm of the ladies that, although it was raining at the time, they resolved to proceed with the games rather than postpone them. We wish the Club continued prosperity and a further increase in the membership roll.

Commodore Boyes, in opening the proceedings, said—Ladies and gentlemen, there is not here to-day such a numerous assemblage as we hoped to have seen and welcomed, and we are very sorry that his Excellency the Governor and the many friends who were invited have been unable to be present on account of the weather; but the presence of those here to-day is very satisfactory to the Club and shows that a considerable interest is taken in the game of golf by the people of Hongkong. The formation of this Club does not date very far back, but an extract from the records I have here may be interesting. The earliest record in the Club minutes is made on the 8th May, 1889, and is as follows:—"It having occurred to certain master minds in Hongkong that the time had now arrived when the outdoor pursuits of the colony should be supplemented by that Royal and Ancient game, which has in Scotland for centuries been the sport of prince and peasant; and which has now rallied to its standard devotees in every nation, the following notice was on May 8th 1889 inserted in the local papers:—Gentlemen interested in the Royal and Ancient game of golf are requested to attend a meeting to be held in the Hongkong Club on Friday, 10th May, at 5 p.m., to consider the question of starting golf links in Hongkong or Kowloon." This record is very interesting indeed, as no doubt many people, considering the game was very little known—in fact, it was not known at all in the colony—thought that the gentlemen calling the meeting were not altogether responsible for their actions. (Laughter.) On the 10th May, soon after this notice was sent

out, the Club was formed by thirteen members, of whom Captain Rumsey, the first Captain, Mr. Dalrymple—I think I am right in this—and Mr. Gershom Stewart are still with us. (Applause.) The first idea was to play on the military grounds at Kowloon, but that idea was not approved of, and permission to play on the Happy Valley was granted by the Government on September 20th, 1889, and Captain Rumsey was appointed the first captain. In May, 1891, the membership had increased to nearly a hundred, and the old mat shed was found to be quite insufficient for the needs of the members. A meeting was held, and it was decided to approach his Excellency the Governor with a view of a lease being granted so that we could build a Club house. His Excellency, who is always ready to assist in any matter relating to the welfare of the community, kindly assented to our wishes, the result being that a lease was granted us. For the plan of the building and the erection of the house the Club is indebted to Mr. E. A. Ram—(applause)—who kindly gave us his gratuitous services. The Club not only had the advantage of having a skilful architect, but also an architect who is a golfer. He knew exactly what the requirements were, and here you have a solid, substantial building, well ventilated, and at the same time strong enough to stand typhoons. (Applause.) In the summer we shall find it delightfully cool, and it will keep off the glare of the sun. The popularity of the game has much increased of late, and men who knew nothing at all about it now turn their attention to it. One is never too old to begin to learn the game, and no matter how badly a man plays he will always find someone who plays worse. (Laughter.) It was felt last year, and the subject was discussed by members, that the dress of members was very much wanting. (Laughter.) Their personal appearance was not particularly good—(laughter)—their flannels got yellow if they were washed, and if they were not they got another colour. (Laughter.) One day a member appeared on the ground with a red coat on, and his example has been freely followed, and I hope members will continue to wear the red jacket. Another question which has caused the Committee a lot of trouble is the question of ladies golfing. The Committee, owing to the crowded state of the ground, have been obliged to place certain restrictions on golfing for ladies, but at the same time we are only too glad to see ladies here. The result of our discussion has been that a competition was arranged for this afternoon, and I am glad to say that, notwithstanding the bad weather, most of the eleven ladies in the competition have put in an appearance. (Applause.)

Mrs. Rumsey then unfurled the Club flag for the first time, and said "Success to the Golf Club." Commodore Boyes said the Club was now open, and he would be glad to see all these present inside. Cheers were given for the Golf Club and for Mrs. Rumsey, and the company then had tea, after which the ladies' competition was proceeded with.

THE LADIES COMPETITION.

Out of eleven entries for this competition, six ladies made up their minds to face the elements, and they deserve considerable praise for the way they played in spite of the state of the ground and the weather. The result was a win for Madam O'Gorman after a tie with Miss Gordon, these two ladies having to turn out in the rain a second time and play two-holes to decide the tie. The ladies were partnered each with a gentleman, and it was considered that the difficulties of the race course and ditches would be too much for the strength of the gentler sex. A 9 hole round was played and the scores considering all things were not so bad. The very handsome prize won by Madam O'Gorman was presented by Mr. G. Stewart, who, very appropriately, helped her to win it. The other two prizes were presented by the Golf Club.

Madam O'Gorman	61	2	59	1st prize,
Mr. G. Stewart				after a tie
Miss Gordon	64	5	59	2nd prize
Mr. W. M. Thompson				
Mr. and Mrs. Dalrymple	70	7	63	3rd prize
Miss M. Boyes				
Commodore Boyes	73	8	65	

Capt. and Mrs. Eccles ... 69 3 66
Miss Boyes } ... 70 4 66
Mr. V. A. C. Hawkins }

THE CAPTAIN'S PRIZE.

Notwithstanding the early hour fixed for this competition a very fair number of players started. No doubt if the weather had been even moderately fine many more would have competed. Mr. G. Stewart's 40 was a very creditable performance and he is to be congratulated on winning the handsome prize presented by Capt. Rumsey, the Captain of the Club.

Mr. G. Stewart	43	3	40
Mr. C. A. Tomes	52	10	42
Mr. V. A. C. Hawkins	48	6	42
Dr. J. Bell	52	7	45
Mr. H. L. Dalrymple	50	5	45
Mr. C. W. Knox	56	10	46
Capt. A. G. Ferguson	54	7	47
Mr. C. Palmer	55	6	49
Major Thomas	60	9	51
Mr. W. A. Duff	58	6	52
Mr. C. H. Grace	59	6	53
Lt. Col. The O'Gorman	65	12	53
Mr. G. W. F. Playfair	62	9	53
Rev. R. F. Cobbold	60	6	54
Mr. C. W. Spriggs	65	9	56

Several others made no return.

The last of the monthly competitions for the Cup presented last April by the then Captain of the Club, Commodore Boyes, was played on Saturday, March 7th, and following days. Mr. C. E. Hume was the successful member, and, it his score had not been spoilt at the last hole, it would have been a very fine one. The same gentleman and Mr. Anton tie for the Sweep.

CAPTAIN'S CUP.

C. E. Hume	91	11	83
H. L. Dalrymple	97	10	87
C. Palmer	102	11	91
J. Hastings	107	14	91
C. A. Tomes	115	20	95

C. E. Hume	94	11	83
A. S. Anton	91	11	83
P. J. Badley	100	21	87
Dr. J. Bell	104	15	89
C. Palmer	102	11	91
J. Hastings	108	14	94
C. A. Tomes	115	20	95
E. A. Ram	107	11	96

The 12 monthly winners are as follows:—

April	Mr. J. Thurnham
May	Capt. W. V. Eccles, R.E.
June	Capt. Rumsey
July	Capt. J. M. Stewart, R.E.
August	Mr. J. A. Fowler
September	Capt. W. V. Eccles, R.E.
October	Mr. V. A. C. Hawkins
November	Mr. A. S. Anton
December	Mr. W. A. Duff
January, 1896	Mr. E. A. Ram
February	Mr. C. H. Grace
March	Mr. C. E. Hume

Of the above Capt. Stewart and Mr. Thurnham have left the colony and Capt. Eccles has won the Cup twice. This will leave nine members to compete for its final possession.

HONGKONG FOOTBALL CUP FINAL.

A VICTORY FOR KOWLOON.

PRESENTATION OF THE PRIZE BY MRS. LOCKHART.

The final tie in the Hongkong Football Competition was played at the Happy Valley on Saturday afternoon between H.M.S. *Centurion* and Kowloon. Throughout the season the various stages of the competition have been watched with unflagging interest, and it was generally thought that the meeting on Saturday would be productive of the finest game of the year, so that it was not at all surprising to find that about two thousand spectators, including a very fair sprinkling of ladies, lined the ropes when the start was made. The *Centurion* won the toss and elected to defend the bridge end of the field, and they had a very slight breeze at their backs. For the first five minutes practically nothing was done, as the ball was very frequently kicked outside, and neither side gained any advantage. Kowloon were the first to make a really energetic attack, but Chambers cleared with a long shot, and for the next few minutes the game

was confined to the Kowloon territory. The *Centurion*, however, showed themselves weak in the forward rank, and although they pressed for ten minutes they could not break through the defence. They had one or two good opportunities, but failed to take advantage of them, and it was soon apparent that the vanguard were not playing such a strong game as had been anticipated by their numerous supporters. At length Kowloon broke away and got dangerously close to goal. The *Centurion* halves played pluckily, but Mylie managed to dodge them and sent a capital shot towards the goal. Greenwood, however, was on the alert, and he sent the ball across to Steel and Richards, who travelled up the field to Kowloon's quarters and looked like scoring. But again their weak spot was manifested as the shot at goal went wide of the mark. The *Centurion* continued to attack, but the Kowloon halves and backs worked exceptionally well, and their tackling quite upset the calculations of the seamen. On one occasion a shot from Buchanan caused Knight to use his hands, but soon afterwards Henderson and Stewart, who had been playing a very good game, succeeded in getting the ball away, and the *Centurion* back division were now kept very busy. For two or three minutes Kowloon attacked vigorously, and after a corner some lively play occurred in front of goal and Mylie headed the ball through for the first time. Deafening cheers were raised when this point was made, and encouraged by their success Kowloon became still more aggressive and hotly pressed their opponents. Just before half time Mylie had possession and he was just going to shoot when he slipped and somehow the goalkeeper fell and was disabled for a couple of minutes. On the game being resumed Kipling and Mayes showed up well on the right wing and some very interesting play between the *Centurion* forwards and the Kowloon back division was witnessed. However, half time was called without any addition being made to the score.

In the second half the *Centurion* were the first to advance, the left wing doing a lot of useful work, but they could make no headway against the sturdy defence of Kowloon. The seamen did not keep up the offensive for very long, as Simpson and McSwayd got possession and by means of some very effective passing they travelled down the field, broke through the defence, and Mylie passed to Symington. The last named was just about to shoot when a cry of "off side" was raised, and Greenwood made the mistake of putting his hand up in protest and he directed the attention from the duties of Symington, who, with a low shot, netted the second goal for Kowloon. The argument on the ground that the off side rule had been infringed was very properly disallowed. Kowloon again attacked and Simpson ran up with the ball, but he was clearly off side; however, his final shot went wide of the posts. The kick from goal enabled the *Centurion* to get to the other end, and Kipling had really a good chance of scoring, but his kick at goal was a very poor attempt. McSwayd now got hold of the ball and worked his way in fine style right down the field, but he was tackled by the backs and dispossessed of the ball. Kowloon continued to hold the upper hand and gave their opponents a lot of trouble. About ten minutes before time an exciting assault was made upon the *Centurion* goal, and Greenwood stepped out of his charge to clear a shot from Mylie. The ball went to McSwayd, who cleverly shot it between the posts and scored the third goal. From this point the seamen played a very weak game and on the rare occasions they got up the field their efforts were frustrated with comparative ease. Once Blount got dangerously close to goal, but his shot went far too high. Kowloon were attacking when the whistle blew, and their victory of three goals to nil was heartily cheered.

That the better team won there can be no doubt. Kowloon were superior at all points of the game, and from a quarter of an hour after the start to the finish there was no doubt as to the result. The winners fully deserved their victory. Their forwards played a sterling game; their passing was very stylish, and their combination was never at fault, while the wing work, particularly McSwayd's, was very fine indeed. Mylie

played a very sound game at centre, and his unselfish feeding of the wings was very creditable to him. Of the halves Henderson, the captain, played really a brilliant game; his kicking was always reliable, and he tackled in very excellent style. Robinson and Stewart were very capable backs, while Knight, when he was called upon, was safe in goal. The *Centurion* team certainly did not play up to the standard that was expected of them. The forwards lamentably lacked combination, and it would be well if they cultivated a system of judicious passing and more accurate shooting at goal. Most of the final shots were poor and either went very wide of the uprights or resembled a successful Rugby drop at goal. At intervals some good wing work was witnessed, but it proved valueless because at the critical moment the other forwards were straggling and unable to give the necessary support. The back division at times accomplished some very good work, but the men require much finish before they can successfully cope with the Kowloon string of forwards. Greenwood should have saved the second goal, but unfortunately for his side he directed his attention too much to an off side appeal while Symington was shooting. This fault of waiting, after an appeal until the referee gave his decision was noticeable on many occasions during the game, and should be remedied without loss of time. Never leave off playing until the referee blows his whistle. It should be mentioned that the game was contested throughout in a very friendly spirit; not once during the contest was there the slightest manifestation of any ill-feeling amongst the players, and they are to be commended for their true sportsmanlike conduct.

At the conclusion of the match Mrs. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, amidst loud bursts of applause from the large crowd that had gathered round, presented the well-earned trophy to Henderson, the captain of the Kowloon team. The Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart made a short speech in which he heartily congratulated Kowloon upon their victory, which, he said, they fully deserved. They had played a magnificent game and, although he did not wish to single out any of the players, he would like to commend Henderson for the fine form he had shown. This was the first contest of the kind that had been held in Hongkong, and he sincerely hoped that a similar competition would be held every year. Cheers were then given for the Kowloon team, the *Centurion* team, and for Mrs. Lockhart.

The following were the teams:—

KOWLOON—Knight, goal; Robinson and Stewart, backs; Haegen, J. Henderson, captain, and Gambion, half backs; J. Simpson and McSwayd (left), Mylie (centre), Gow, and Symington (right), forwards.

CENTURION—Gunner Greenwood, R.M.A., goal; W. Chambers, A.B., and H. Shirland, A.B., backs;—Blount, W. Street, A.B., and D. Allen, half backs; Gunner Richards, R.M.A., and—Steel (left), P. Buchanan, bandsman; (centre), A. Mayes, A.B., and J. Kipling, A.B., captain (right), forwards.

Referee—Mr. King. Linesmen—Messrs. P. G. Davies, R.A., and E. F. Mackay.

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION

Owing doubtless to the counter attraction of the Football match only four members turned up on Saturday afternoon to shoot in the re-opening competition, which was fired over the 200 and 300 yards distances. The occasion was the competition for the Short Range Cup, which was won for the first time by Captain Ferguson, who also secured the Spoon. The following were the scores:—

	200	300	H'cap	Total
Capt. Ferguson	32	30	—	62
Col. Sergt. Hopkins	29	30	—	59
Mr. F. Smyth	32	23	—	55
Private Wilson	24	26	2	52

It is reported that a telegram has been received at Shanghai by one of the former directors of the Belmont Mine, which the Shanghai owners were forced to part with a couple of years ago for a mere song, saying that the property has been sold for a cool million gold dollars to an American syndicate. —China Gazette.

ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

NINTH CLUB RACE.

This race was sailed on the 8th March in a light but steady east wind. The course was from the Police Pier, Kowloon, round the Channel Rocks, Kowloon Rocks, dinghy off pier, twice round; 13 miles. The following boats started:—

Payne	Royal Engineers
Dart	Mr. A. H. Barlow
Erica	Mr. A. Denison
Princess	Dr. Lawson
Meteor	Mr. T. W. Lammert
She	Mr. C. H. Gale

The Arrow had a sail over for the Handicap prize.

In the beat up to Channel Rocks Meteor and Erica went away from the rest of the fleet and rounded with a lead of five or six minutes. The times were:—

	H.	M.	S.
Meteor	12	33	7
Erica	12	35	20
Payne	12	40	0
Princess	12	44	0
Dart	12	46	7
She	12	51	0

Shortly after rounding the rocks the Erica ran foul of the Princess, which was beating up. As Erica was going free at the time and Princess was close hauled, the former hauled down her flag and returned to her moorings. The times at different marks were as follows:—

	Kowloon Rock			off Pier		
	H.	M.	S.	H.	M.	S.
Meteor	12	49	40	1	16	55
Payne	12	56	0	1	23	25
Princess	12	58	0	1	27	25
Dart	12	61	50	1	31	10
She	1	5	20	1	7	20

In the second beat up to Channel Rocks Princess passed Payne, and went into second place. Nothing further happened and the boats finished as follows:—

	H.	M.	S.
Meteor	2	57	34
Princess	3	3	31
Payne	3	7	20
Dart	3	18	11
She	3	19	50
Arrow	3	21	14

The marks gained by the boats up to date are:—Erica 44, Princess 41, Meteor 36, Payne 3, Ladybird 1; in the second class She 60; and in the handicap class Arrow 30.

CORRESPONDENCE

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

THE DOCK COMPANY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—As a shareholder unable to attend the meeting last Tuesday I have read with interest your report of the proceedings, the letter of "Rhadamanthus," and your leading article of yesterday. I quite agree with you that it would have been better if notice had been given of the intention to propose such a resolution as was moved by Mr. Stokes, seconded by Mr. Mody, and carried by the meeting. But shareholders should remember that that is not the end of the matter. I am inclined to think that so much of the resolution as purports to vote \$3,500 "to the Board as an addition to their fees for the past half year" is invalid as being in contravention of article 69 of the new Articles of Association. As to the rest of the resolution, the limit of the directors' fees cannot be prospectively increased from \$1,000 to \$2,000 a year each except by a special resolution passed and confirmed at extraordinary meetings of the shareholders. These meetings must be duly convened and held and notice of the intended resolution must be given, so that the shareholders will still have an opportunity of considering whether or not the directors' remuneration should be increased. Nothing has yet been decided in this respect, except that the shareholders shall be asked to consider the question, and if any shareholder has an alternative proposal to make it is still open to him to make it.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

J. F. REECE.

Hongkong, 3rd March, 1896.

DIRECTORS' FEES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—Now that the Directors of the Union Insurance Society have gracefully withdrawn their preposterous proposal it may seem ungracious to refer to the matter further; but as two previous, equally preposterous, proposals were practically sprung on shareholders, it may be as well that a little light should be thrown on the subject and that it should be calmly considered before shareholders are caught again. It would be interesting, and, indeed, instructive, to know how many of the 134 votes are held by gentlemen who are directors of other public companies. Mutual accommodation is a virtue; it is akin to, we may say a form of, charity, that is brotherly love. We have faith in our directors' industry and ability; we have hope for big dividends; but, "the greatest of these is charity." Therefore if any of those 134 votes were given on the mutual accommodation principle they are to be commended as the exercise of a virtue to which we all lay claim. On the other hand it must be understood that the 47 adverse votes were not the result of a canvass; at least I and the only other shareholder to whom I have spoken on the matter were not asked. They were apparently the votes of officious, discontented, and uncharitable shareholders; probably they came mostly from Shanghai; dictated by that restless, intermeddling spirit for which shareholders in the "Model Sink" are noted. I would not presume to venture an opinion as to what the result of a canvass would have been; but, although it might have deprived the directors of the opportunity of showing their magnanimity, it would have been the more satisfactory course. In this connection may I ask, Why did not the directors of the Dock Company adopt that plan with regard to the increase of their fees, when they had found it so successful in quashing the brokers' proposal to split up the shares? It cannot be contended that the proposal was not known beforehand, as both that and the bonus to the staff had been publicly spoken of for some time. The bonus to the European staff was well deserved. They are, I am told on the best authority, mostly all exceptionally able men in their profession and had for a long time been working day and night, although the terms of their agreements do not allow anything for "overtime." They are paid high salaries I know, but they are the pick of the best yards at home and they gave a great deal of extra work ungrudgingly. Did the increase of work at the Dock entail any extra time or attention or require any extra talent on the part of the directors? I know not! Now that the plan of asking by circular the opinion of the shareholder on new and important proposals has been successfully adopted I hope to see it followed in other cases. Had a vote been taken in this way in regard to the return of capital by the Steamboat Company I feel sure that the result would have been different. At least the opinions I heard outside were almost all against it. It might have been the same in the case of the bonus forced by a few from the Douglas Steamship Company, and had it been done in the case of the increase to the previously very high sum drawn by the directors of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank I have not a shadow of a doubt that that increase would never have passed. Of almost all our companies the votes of the Hongkong and Shanghai shareholders would be sufficient to decide any question.

But, *revenons a nos moutons*, although I think that Hongkong shareholders and not the (I had almost written, clique of) directors are the sheep. As I file the reports of all the Companies in which I am interested I have taken the names of twelve men, and I find that Mr. A. is a director of ten Hongkong companies, from which he draws an annual sum of \$13,083 or thereabouts; Mr. B. from seven companies gets \$9,333; Mr. C. from seven, \$8,916; Mr. D., eight, for \$8,750; Mr. E., six, \$8,666; Mr. F., eight, \$7,250; Mr. G., four, \$6,666; Mr. H., five, \$6,000; Mr. I., four, \$4,250; Mr. J., two, \$4,166; Mr. K., three, \$3,333; Mr. L., three, \$3,250. These figures were taken out by another person (whose view as well as my own I am expressing) and checked by me, and they may therefore,

although we do not of course guarantee their accuracy, be taken as at least approximately correct. Now, all these gentlemen have, or are supposed to have, the important interests of their own firms to attend to, so it can be judged that the time which Mr. A., for instance, can devote to the companies from which he draws \$1,090 a month is already sufficiently well paid for. You informed us some days ago that it is business ability and experience as well as time that has to be paid for. Directors' meetings are generally held once a week and last half an hour, or say an hour on an average. Let us take the case of Mr. J., who holds office in two companies. This gentleman is supposed to have had experience, as the storekeepers say, of everything from a needle to an anchor. He attends say a hundred meetings a year for which he draws \$41.66 each, pretty good pay for an hour's time and even his varied experience. But another reason, which you did not mention, for appointment to directorships is that the appointees are supposed to be able to bring business. Mr. K. sits on the boards of three insurance companies, from whose funds he draws nearly \$300 per month, but I will undertake to say that of a dozen commission agents whom you may name any one contributes more business in a month than he does in a year. If fees are to be increased whenever a temporary profitable business has been done they will have to be reduced when the business happens to have been unprofitable. We have known cases in which directors have foregone their fees when a continuance of bad times has occurred, and we have known cases (more of the latter!) in which they did not, as, for instance, the Hongkong Bank directors when that institution paid no dividend and lost its reserve fund. If the companies they are supposed to manage have been doing well they ought to be content with the extra dividends which their talents (?) enable to be paid on the shares they hold; that is, supposing that they've got any. Directors ought to be paid either a fixed sum, through good Reports and through bad Reports, like any other employés—generally more time, attention, and especially ability, are required when a business is not doing well than when things are flourishing and, therefore, most likely going on smoothly—or they ought to be paid a percentage on the net profits, or even part one and part the other, but the plan of permanently raising the sum paid because there happens to have been a temporary increase in the profits must be put an end to. It must be remembered that a fall in the dividends is almost inevitable; the reduction in the rate of interest on mortgages and all round has to be put against any prospective increase in business, and considering that competition is becoming keener every day, such increase cannot be looked for in many cases. Those enthusiastic buyers who are rushing up the price of shares seem to overlook this fact. We are no advocates of a cheese-paring policy. In some cases directors' fees would stand raising; in other, and we think more numerous, cases, they would stand reducing. The only business-like way is to let the law of supply and demand take its course; an inferior man must be content with inferior remuneration; a stupid or lazy man is dear at any price, while a really good and working man is almost always cheap even at an exceptionally high salary. The mistake we make is the same as the sophistry which underlies the argument on which trade-unionism is founded, that good and bad should be paid alike. This place is small, very small, and it is forgotten that directors are the employés of the shareholders, and while they have the right to sell in the dearest we have an equal right to buy in the cheapest market. These things should be done on the principle of business, not on that of brotherly love. The twelve gentlemen on the above list are, with the exception of one *rentier*, all so-called merchants; some represent "real live businesses," some represent names: but all are brothers apparently, at least they hold together. The times demand a change and demand that directors be appointed and their remuneration fixed by the

SHAREHOLDERS.

Hongkong, 9th March, 1896.

Invitations have been issued for a St. Patrick's Dance on the 16th inst.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—I quite endorse the remarks over the signature of "Shareholders" in this morning's issue of your paper. I feel certain that in no instance where the Directors' fees have recently been raised has it not the concurrence of the majority of the shareholders. I believe that the shareholders in the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co. have no wish to add to their liabilities by permanently raising the fees of the Directors, and I hope the resolution irregularly passed at the last half-yearly meeting will be rescinded. In fact I am sure it will be rescinded if the shareholders have sufficient independence and choose to exercise their power of voting. I very much doubt now, after reading Mr. Reece's letter, whether the resolution passed at the last meeting of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank to increase the fees of the Directors was in order. I have no copy of the Articles by me, but I believe they provide that a fixed sum, the amount hitherto paid—and which is handsome remuneration for the work done—shall be devoted to payment of the Directors' fees, and I doubt whether it was not necessary to propose a special resolution, to be confirmed at an extraordinary meeting, to make the change hastily carried through at the last meeting. I do not make these remarks in any carping spirit, but I think things of this kind should be done only after due deliberation, with the full consent of all the shareholders, and in a thoroughly legal manner. The labourer is worthy of his hire, and I think that Directors should be paid for the responsibility they take, for the use of their names—often of great service—and for the work they do. But they should not be paid more than the Company can afford in bad times, and hence the fees should not be increased without very grave consideration. If the Directors of any joint stock concern have had exceptional work, or some business of a specially remunerative nature has been put through in the half-year, then, I would suggest, give them a bonus for that period, and not raise their fees.—I am, sir, yours faithfully,

Hongkong, 10th March, 1896.

WHY HONGKONG DOES NOT BECOME A MANUFACTURING CENTRE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

DEAR SIR,—Your leader of the 26th ultimo begins thus:—"The industrial development of Hongkong has not proceeded at the same pace as that of Shanghai, but it is nevertheless making substantial progress." You know, sir, and there are many more in this colony who know the reason why, but if there are a few who do not know, I should feel obliged if you would grant me sufficient space in your valuable columns to enlighten them.

On the 24th ult. Mr. Prosser sold three lots of Crown land which realized a little more than the upset price and/or very nearly \$1 per superficial yard. The conditions of sale are that the purchaser shall expend upon this land, within one year, the sum of \$150,000. This together with the first year's Crown rent brings the cost up to over \$11, at present rate of exchange and roughly reckoning, £14s. 0d. sterling per superficial yard. This is the reason that Hongkong is making slow progress, and that Shanghai is making such rapid progress. Hongkong is the Bletchly of the East, and many of the great companies which were floated in Shanghai would have been better here, and would have been here had it not been for the exorbitant price of land, which is prohibitive to any company with limited means.

I know of one company that should be floated this year or very early in next. The directors will not spend more than £10,000 sterling on plant and land, and they would require some twenty or thirty acres of land to their works. At the above price of course they would not be able to do it. Perhaps they will also go to Shanghai, or Macao, as the little extra for freight would not make very much difference to their profits in comparison with what the price of land would to their capital.

If our Government want the population and industries to increase they should make grants of land to anyone willing to open up industries, and of course levy a small ground rent and tax

and insist upon improvements being made according to occupiers' capital and means. More particularly should this be done on the south side of the Island, where I believe there are good frontages and deep water. This would also help to develop our possessions at the back of Kowloon and near the Chinese frontier. Had this been done thirty years ago we should have had ten times as large a European and Chinese population as we have to-day. Even now it is not too late, but while the above prices and conditions exist and are exacted the inhabitants of this colony will never number

A MILLION.

Hongkong, 3rd March, 1896.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

DEAR SIR,—Will you kindly grant me sufficient space in your valuable columns to reply to the letter written by "A Million." That there is a great deal of truth in the letter goes without saying. That the Government could let manufacturers have cheap land, if it thought fit, also goes without saying. That there are good frontages and deep water on the south side of the island is also very true, but there is one thing (and the main thing) which the writer does not mention—perhaps he forgets, did not think of, or does not know—that there is a scarcity of fresh water for manufacturing purposes on the south side of the island. This the Government could also remedy at very little cost in comparison to the benefits to be derived from it.

Before factories could do any good on the south side of the island there must first be a good supply of fresh water. To accomplish this the Government would have to make one great reservoir, say one square mile in extent, put in one main for use in Victoria and another main for use on the south side of the island. This would give an abundant supply of water for all manufacturing purposes, flushing of drains, fires, &c., and it would leave Tytam and the other reservoir entirely free for potable purposes only.—I remain, with thanks, yours faithfully,

OBSERVER.

Hongkong, 5th March, 1896.

THE SALE OF BUILDING MATERIAL FROM THE PLAGUE DISTRICT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—The Government notification advertising the sale by public auction of the material of the houses in Tank Lane cannot be contemplated in any other light than that of indignation and dismay. This subject, which entirely concerns the whole community, cannot be more forcibly dealt with than through the medium of the press, and with due respect I would beg of you space for the insertion of this letter, as the subject it treats of claims deliberate consideration.

Tank Lane was the cradle of the plague and most if not all of its houses saw a few cases of this infectious disease. Now the sale of the material from these houses must of necessity be a factor in spreading the plague and I am quite sure the Government can easily perceive that the step it has taken would injure the whole community as well as itself. What, then, could have induced the Government to take such a shameful step as this? Naturally one would conclude that it is simply for the sake of money. Could the money thus realized be of more importance than the loss of many lives it may entail? I leave this question to the discretion of the reader and would conclude by stating that our present Government needs a reform, and its heads of departments wiser men.—I remain, sir, your obedient servant,

CHARITY.

Hongkong, 4th March, 1896.

[“Charity” has apparently overlooked the fact that the sale has been cancelled.—F. D.P.]

HOUSE TO HOUSE VISITATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—Before proceeding with the subject of my letter I find it incumbent upon me to thank the unofficial members for their action in having the sale of the material enclosed within the resumed area of Taipingshan district cancelled.

Again I would solicit of the patient reader a perusal of this letter, as it has for its aim the general good and the matter on hand is one of the greatest importance to all those who take an

interest in humanity. The subject to which I refer is connected with the house to house visitation. It was in 1894 that these visitations were instituted and having given a keen insight into the matter I now find myself amply qualified to report on the way in which the same were conducted. The visitations were very important, and I may say necessary, as a means of abating the plague, which was then rapidly spreading, but the conduct of the visitors requires especial attention. In the first place, wherever they found a patient whose illness was somewhat complicated they unhesitatingly inferred that it was plague and the poor sufferer was then immediately taken to the hospital, and not unfrequently died on the way from mere anxiety and fear. Now not only did the patient suffer in such instances, but the whole family shared in the distress, and its furniture was either used as fuel in feeding the street fire or was cast off in some neglected corner. The second point to which I would draw your attention is that these visitors often ill-treated the occupants of the houses of the poorer class and would even go so far as to expose their belongings to the mercy of the weather for several days while they were having the house white-washed. These are facts, and facts not only from personal experience but also gathered from other very reliable sources, and I may mention that the sudden efflux of the Chinese population at present is mainly due to the above cause, for many of the well-to-do Chinamen are not of opinion that they should meet with rough treatment at the hands of the visitors. Feeling that I am encroaching on your valuable space I would now thank you, Mr. Editor, for the insertion of this letter, and in the name of charity would solicit the help of those who are able to relieve the poor sufferers.—I remain, sir, your obedient servant,

CHARITY.

Hongkong, 6th March, 1896.

THE SECRET TREATY BETWEEN CHINA AND RUSSIA.

Shanghai, 3rd March.

The political world at home was startled some months ago by the despatch from Hongkong to the London Times of a telegram announcing the conclusion of a treaty between China and Russia by which the latter Power was authorised to use Port Arthur as a naval station. We had ourselves announced some time before that when Wang Chih-chun went to Russia in the latter part of 1894 to congratulate the Czar on his accession, he made a secret treaty, but this has of course been strenuously denied at St. Petersburg. Nevertheless, these denials have not been fully accepted, and from time to time separate articles of the treaty have been hinted at. We are now in possession of a letter from Peking, of the important part of which we give a translation, containing a full account of the treaty as agreed on by the two Powers concerned. The writer is addressing a friend in Shanghai, and he says:—"Although there is a rumour abroad about the existence of such a treaty, on one outside the actual contractors knew its details, and I now note the contents in order to show how secretly things have been done, and also that you may have the pleasure of being one of the first outside to know the matter. Furthermore, although the affair causes one to greatly wonder and feel bitter at it, the matter is yet true and not empty words, and of this you may rest assured, all the more as the copy I have seen contained the sign of Hsing ["Proceed" or "Consent given"] made by the various members of the Ministry of War at the end of the document.

The several articles named therein are as follows:—

"The Great Chinese Emperor being exceedingly grateful at the friendly acts of the Russian Emperor in forcing the Japanese to retrocede Liaotung with its several tens of cities, and for being the first to lend money to China to pay her war indemnity to Japan, his Majesty the Chinese Emperor is therefore anxious to display his gratitude by seeking methods wherein he might assist Russia, and for this reason his Majesty is willing to conclude a treaty of alliance with Russia. This being the case, if Russia should have any difficulties with any other Power in Asia, it is but right that

China should exert her utmost endeavours to assist in every way her ally. To which end China allows Russia to use any of her harbours along the maritime coasts of China, to enter them at pleasure or leave at any time or to mobilise her fleet therein or for the purpose of repairs or to take in supplies, buy coal, etc. If there be any critical danger for Russia, China allows Russia to secretly recruit her forces in Chinese territory, to buy horses or to get coolies, etc. This is of course to be done quietly and is to be considered as secret assistance given to Russia. Should it also happen that remonstrances be made to China in the above matter, China is to reply that Russia being the stronger and China the weaker of the two she has no help but to allow Russia to do as she pleased. If, however, China is desirous of manifesting further her friendship for Russia by openly aiding the latter country and attacking Russia's enemies in concert with her, this shall also be permissible, but it should be done as circumstances allow and must be the subject of further discussion.

"At present the harbours of Russia although plentiful in number still labour under the disadvantage of being liable to be frozen up several feet during the winter months, hence Russian ships cannot enter or leave them at will. The harm this will lead to in time of war would therefore be disastrous to Russia to a great degree: and this goes without saying. His Majesty the Emperor of China being therefore grateful to Russia for her friendly help is willing to devise methods to assist his ally in this matter and now permits Russia to use Port Arthur to anchor her fleet and to accommodate her troops there. If, however, in order to avoid complications with other Powers it be deemed inadvisable to use Port Arthur as stated, then Russia shall be permitted to use the harbour of Kiaochow Bay, in Shantung province: there Russia shall be at liberty to enter or leave the harbour at will: to canton her troops; and she shall also be allowed to build barracks for her land troops and coal sheds, etc., in order to fill an urgent want on the part of Russia. If, again, Kiaochow be not suitable then Russia shall be permitted to choose any port or harbour on the maritime coasts of Kiangsu and Chikiang for her purpose. This is a further proof of the desire of China to strengthen the friendship she feels for Russia. It being, however, feared that the local authorities of the places visited by the Russian fleet, being ignorant of the understanding made with Russia, may make opposition, a secret decree shall, on the one hand, be sent to the various Viceroys and Governors notifying them of the case, and these shall on their part advise their subordinates not to prevent or obstruct the movements of the Russians, while on the other hand the Tsungli Yamén shall be instructed to appoint three interpreters who shall proceed to Shanghai with all haste and report to the Russian Admiral for service with his ships. It shall be the duty of these interpreters to assist the Russian and Chinese officials in their mutual intercourse and also to transmit to the latter his Imperial Majesty's wishes in the matter.

"If China on her part shall have any difficulties with other Powers, Russia shall use her endeavours to arrange the said difficulties; but if these good offices be of no effect it shall be the duty of Russia to give her help to China before other Powers, thereby binding firmly the alliance between the two countries.

"China is also willing to permit Russian officers freedom of movement in the eastern frontiers of her possessions of Fengtien and Kirin and to navigate the Yalu river with its several affluents along those provinces, either for the purpose of trade or to assist China to police the frontiers of the respective countries.

"When the Siberian railway shall have been completed, joining the eastern and western limits of Russia, then China shall permit Russia to build a branch line through Heilungchiang, Kirin, and Manchuria down to Talienhuan in Fengtien, or any other point to be chosen by Russia. The power over this branch line shall be held jointly by Russia and China, but after fifteen years when China shall have shown her ability to do so alone, then it shall be permissible for her to buy the Russian share of the line at cost price, and she shall thenceforth have

the sole control over the lines within her own territories.

"To provide against harm to the said line on the part of the Powers actuated by jealousy, China shall permit Russia to hold one of the islands near Talienhuan and opposite that port for the purpose of making it a rendezvous for Russian ships and land troops and also to fortify the same in order to protect the said Talienhuan terminus and provide against disasters.

"The country about Vladivostok is of the utmost importance to Russia in this part of Asia. The Siberian railway having been completed it will be necessary that Russia shall protect the line against the jealousy and hostile intentions of other countries. China therefore shall permit Russia to choose some points on the southern side of Hunch'un (Chinese city opposite Vladivostok) to be fortified and for the purpose of storing supplies and troops, thereby forming mutual supports to the forts on the northern side [Vladivostok]. In this way the Russian cities there shall be freed from anxiety. This is really helping a neighbouring country to solidify her base and is an instance of the deep and lasting friendship China entertains towards Russia.

"If in the future, owing to Korea, Russia and Japan should come to blows, China shall grant permission to Russia to attack the western frontiers of Korea by way of the Yalu river.

"The Siberian railway will also be of great benefit to China. China is therefore willing to open markets for the sale of Russian goods and piece-goods and assist Russian trade in every way in order that unobstructed Russian manufactures may come into China in a ceaseless stream similar to the present condition of trade in Chinese Turkestan.

"In the present crisis the military organisation of China is the most important to that country. China will therefore request of Russia the loan of several hundred officers to drill about 100,000 Chinese troops. Commencement shall be made in the three eastern provinces [i.e., Fengtien, Kirin, and Heilungchiang], and if this be successful then the system shall be extended to the northern five provinces [i.e., Chihli, Shantung, Shansi, Shensi, and Kansu]. This shall be one way of strengthening China's power."

So far the treaty itself. The writer of the letter goes on to say: "I am sure that after having read the above you will be greatly grieved at the way China has wantonly put her head into the rope held by Russia. I think the Princes and Ministers who had the doing of this have much to answer for for throwing away their country like this, and I am afraid that they cannot get rid of the name of having sold their country and bringing future shame on their Sovereign; deeds which will have an unsavoury flavour for a myriad years to come! From this you will clearly perceive that it will be but a matter of time when not only Manchuria but the five northern provinces will all fall into the hands of Russia, and this will take place in the near future. Just wait and see.

"I now hear that it was the intention of the Tsungli Yamén to have the three interpreters stay on the Russian ships only three months. But as the Korean King has recently surrendered himself to Russia, it is feared that the anger of Japan will plunge her into war with the former, and so the Russians are ever on the alert against attack by Japan, and it is expected here that to prevent this Russia will be the first to attack Japan unawares. In this way Japan will be made to lose courage and become demoralised at the outset. Hence instructions have been telegraphed by the Tsungli Yamén to the three interpreters in question to remain with the Russians until the crisis be over.

"Furthermore, the present journey of Li Hung-chang to Russia is not only for the purpose of attending the coronation there, but I hear that he goes to get the personal ratification of the secret treaty by the Czar. It is therefore my opinion that China will not pay the balance of her war indemnity to Japan but will instead get the money from Russia, and get her to buy some ready-made ironclads for her in order to try to wash away the past disgrace she has received from Japan."

The existence of this secret treaty, which is, as the writer of the letter says, a traitorous sale of China to Russia, will of course

be officially denied, but there is much corroborating evidence. The offer of Kiaochow Bay is known to have been made; the Chinese interpreters mentioned are actually on board Russian ships, and were in Yokohama quite recently; Russian officers have, as we know from our own correspondents, been moving freely about Manchuria; and surveying for the extension of the Siberian railway to the Liaotung Peninsula has actually begun. The fact seems to be that Russia has made up her mind that the partition of China is inevitable, and she will have Manchuria, and probably Mongolia, and the five northern provinces mentioned above. She has just practically declared that neither Japan nor any other Power shall have Korea, while Mr. Curzon is sure that she does not mean to take it herself. Will our Government oppose the ratification of this treaty, or will it take compensation in the Yangtze Valley and so join Russia in the partitioning China? It is difficult to believe that Russia would counsel China to break without provocation the treaty of Shimonoseki by refusing to pay the balance of the indemnity due to Japan; but the long delay in concluding the negotiations for the second indemnity loan has a suspicious appearance, and there is some reason to fear that the prediction that we should see a renewal of hostilities here in the spring may possibly be fulfilled.—N. C. Daily News.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SAIGON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON THE CHINESE.

A VIOLENT PHILIPPIC.

M. Rolland, the Chairman of the Saigon Chamber of Commerce, which is an elected body, at the final meeting of the last session, held on the 25th February, made a notable speech. We give below a translation:—

Gentlemen and colleagues,—The mission confided to us by the electors of Cochinchina approaches its termination. Our successors will be designated in a few days and I think you will consider it useful to transmit to them some indication of what has been done by preceding Chambers, which will enable them to see what remains to be done. At the time when a new order has been made profoundly modifying the composition of the Chamber of Commerce it appears to me especially necessary to declare in your name that in this fact there is no rupture of traditions, but only an adaptation to new economic conditions. It will be useful to prevent all possibility of misunderstanding on this point, which would be regrettable. I need not assure you, my colleagues, how necessary it is that our Chamber should have a large and indisputable authority. The colonial policy of the metropolis is not always enlightened, if even it is so sometimes. Our local administration has need to be on its guard to defend itself against orders, often ill considered and ill conceived, emanating from the Department of the Colonies, and our Colonial Council has need of all its energy and knowledge of local affairs to resist these orders and defend the interests of the colony. The Administration, as well as the Colonial Council, requires the support of public opinion, which, here as everywhere else, ought to have the last word, for it alone ought to remain mistress. In commercial matters public opinion is represented by the Chamber of Commerce, the direct emanation of the producers of public wealth. It is necessary then that our Chamber should be armed with an indisputable moral authority. Its rôle does not call upon it to act, but it represents in the management of public affairs the Advocate-General of great private enterprises, without whose advice no measure should be adopted. Now, in times past, when our Chamber has protested, and sometimes with justifiable heat, against measures, or at least pretensions, contrary to the interests of our colony, the reply has been made, "Your Chamber is not a French Chamber." In the political and economic atmosphere now prevailing in all countries this is a grave accusation and one that, being admitted without examination, would deprive us of all influence. We had to reply to it, and we have replied that the foreign European merchants who formed part of our

Chamber had the same interests as ourselves and that they have always been our most devoted and most competent collaborators. But our reply came from afar and, as you may suppose, had no effect. What was the Administration to do, knowing how necessary the support of our Chamber was for the defence of the colony's interests? Evidently it could not do otherwise than give to our assembly a composition exclusively French, and our friends of foreign nationality will be the first to understand that this measure was imposed by the necessity of protecting our interests, theirs as well as ours, for the two are inseparable. There is not in this, gentlemen, a separation, a complete and definite severance; that is not the intention of the Administration, any more than it is ours. On the contrary, we are confident that the next Chamber will receive from our friends Messrs. Kurtz and Entner, as on the part of all the representatives of European houses, an assistance as devoted, as complete, and as enlightened, as has always been given us by our excellent colleagues. In thanking them for this assistance, and in counting on its continuance, I am sure I express the feelings of all my French colleagues and also of our successors. Having spoken, gentlemen, of our colleagues of foreign nationality, but of the same race as ourselves—in these countries of the Far East it is necessary to speak of questions of race—I must turn to our other colleagues, foreigners of a different race. While regretting to be obliged to yield to the considerations of a special order which have led the Ministry no longer to admit European foreigners in the composition of the Chamber of Commerce—which, moreover, agrees with the principle prevailing in the Chambers of the metropolis—we must experience a corresponding satisfaction at seeing the elimination of the Chinese element. Here it is right that I should give some explanation of the attitude which I, having the honour to be your President, have maintained. It would not become me to shirk the responsibility devolving upon me. I deemed it my duty to play an active part in this elimination of the Chinese and I associated myself fully in all that could prepare for and bring about this result. In taking this course I was confident that I was giving effect to the wishes of the Chamber, which, long ago, took the initiative in proposing measures directed against the invasion of the Chinese, an invasion truly menacing and to which many of our compatriots have already fallen victims. If certain measures of safety proposed by us or by our predecessors have not succeeded it is not our fault, for we have met with obstacles at the time insurmountable. This is a question for our successors to take up. If your Chamber has not been consulted by the Administration as to the exclusion of Chinese merchants it is evidently because there would have been inconveniences attending the discussion of the question in the presence of those affected. It would have seemed that they had the right to dissent from the measure, and that could not be admitted from any point of view. Is it necessary to insist in your hearing on the wisdom of the measure which has been taken? Certainly not, for you know better than anyone the danger with which we are menaced from Asiatics. We are here in a situation analogous to that in other countries, Java, for instance, where the exercise of certain professions is interdicted to the Chinese, the United States, where violent measures have been taken against them, Australia, where all sorts of difficulties are opposed to their introduction. We alone have done nothing to defend ourselves, or, rather, we have frequently shown ourselves more benevolent to the Celestials than to our own countrymen. It seemed, indeed, as if it was impossible to dispense with them, impossible to live without them, and God forgive me, it seemed also as if we were afraid of them. Yes, indeed, the Chinese are useful to us, necessary even, but as tools, as instruments, and nothing more. It has been a mistake to allow them to depart from this subservient rôle, and we see to-day the results of this blind policy, this feebleness, we should add. Perhaps there is no necessity for me to say more after the eloquent words spoken on this subject in the Colonial Council by our colleague M. Holbé, but the question is so grave, so menacing, that I think it may not

be altogether useless to insist upon it once more, having the honour to speak in your name. When Europeans, whether French or of any other nationality, came to establish themselves in the Far East, and not by the good will of the Chinese—let us not forget that—they had nevertheless to address themselves to the Chinese. Completely ignorant of the customs, the manners, and especially the views and feelings of Asiatics, so different from ours, it was necessary to use intermediaries belonging to the native races, compradores as they are called. Thanks to our tolerance, to our naive sentimentalism, not to use a more severe expression, we have allowed these underlings, these auxiliaries, to take a place more and more directive. We have allowed them to make by tortuous and indirect means and without danger to themselves the conquest of a country which we ourselves had conquered at the price of our blood and treasure. And this conquest seems now so well accomplished that we have almost to defend ourselves against the insolent attitude of some of these invaders. They aim at driving us from our houses of commerce, from the industries we have founded, benefiting by our experiments and pioneer work! Having almost become our masters, they in their turn will have need of intermediaries between themselves and the barbarians of the West. They will then give us powers of attorney, and it is under this euphemism alone that we are to find a compensation for our downfall! Why should they not go still further, our brothers in God of the yellow race? Persisting in our sentimentalism, which relieves us of our perhaps brutal but nevertheless sane notions of the struggle for life, we will give them naturalisation if they ask it; and they will ask it. We will give it them without calling upon them to sacrifice anything whatsoever of their status in China, of their personal and national laws, and without being able to impose upon them any of the responsibilities devolving upon ourselves, since nothing is easier than for them to throw it off when they leave for Canton without notice and under any name they like. Naturalisation being accorded them they could go anywhere by invoking the principle of equality for all Frenchmen, they might be included in all the Administrations, they might sit in the Colonial Council, and there would be nothing to hinder the colony having as Deputy a mandarin of the yellow jacket. Why might this Deputy not enter even a Ministerial combination as Minister for the Colonies? No doubt I am pushing my argument to demonstration by the absurd, but have we not before seen absurd dreams surpassed by the most paradoxical imaginations. In short, gentlemen, measures are necessary to make the Chinese, or at least some of them who are at their head, fall back within the limits which they ought never to have been allowed to exceed. Let no one bring up against us the treaties with China, which we are the only ones of the two parties to respect and of which we are the dupes. If the violation of one of these so-called treaties led to China sending one of her ironclads up our river, that would give us a refined distraction by permitting us to assist on board this ship at a fancy ball. That would give us an element of gaiety very precious in a country like ours where laughing is the best auxiliary to good health. [Our translator has been unable to make out the point of this joke.] The first step in sending back to its place the Chinese element is its elimination from the Chamber of Commerce, where it was called to sit on a footing of complete equality with the Europeans. You know, gentlemen, better than any one the inconvenience and even the danger which this situation presented. What I have said is not, however, a declaration of war against the Chinese, as certain persons would seem to think. It would not become us, masters of the country by right of conquest, it would not fit our dignity, to take up that ground, which would seem to admit a certain equality of rights. It is an advice which we give to those who ought to remain our auxiliaries, our instruments, our intermediaries, not to leave the rôle assigned to them. On this condition they will receive good treatment from us, and will still unfortunately be able to drain away a great part of the riches of the colony.

The speaker then passed on to other subjects.

THE JAPANESE DIET.

VICTORY OF THE GOVERNMENT.

Tokyo, 25th February.

The Diet reassembled to-day. In the Lower House a member of the Ji-yu-to pressed the Government to give the vote of censure precedence of the Orders of the Day, and this course was agreed to by a majority of the House.

The Clerk of the House read a request from the Kokumin Kyokwai for permission to withdraw the motion.

The House, however, refused consent. The motion was discussed, and eventually defeated by 165 votes to 101.

There was a very large attendance of "strangers" in the House.—*Japanese Press despatch.*

THE KUCHENG MAGISTRATE PUNISHED.

The Magistrate in charge of Kucheng at the time of the massacre of missionaries in August last has been denounced and punished. The *N. C. Daily News* publishes the following translation of a memorial by the Viceroy and rescript which appeared in the *Peking Gazette* of the 14th December:—

Pien Pao-ch'uan, Viceroy of the Min-Ché provinces, acting Tartar-General of Foochow and Superintendent of Customs of the Min Circuit, denounces Wang Yü-ch'ang, district magistrate of Kutien, Fukien, for incompetency, cowardice, and avarice, and possessing a decidedly bad reputation amongst his colleagues. On account of this memorialist has already deposed the said magistrate from his post at Kutien, but he thinks that this man deserves further punishment for failing at the beginning to report a rising of the Vegetarians in his district, preferring to buy peace by asking certain persons to promise concessions to the demands of the secret society men in order to keep them quiet. In consequence of this the Vegetarians became bolder and bolder in their conduct and more audacious daily in their demands on the said magistrate. The result of all this is well known—the massacre at Whasang. Hence Wang Yü-ch'ang may be said to have been solely responsible for the massacre and the originator of all these secret society troubles in Kutien. He is also said to have accepted bribes, on the strength of which unlawful deeds were done without any attempt on his part to call the perpetrators to account. Such a man is a perfect disgrace to the public service, which has suffered considerable harm at his hands. Memorialist therefore requests that the said Wang Yü-ch'ang be forthwith cashiered and dismissed the service, and a successor be appointed to fill the Kutien magistracy.—Rescript: Granted. Let the Board of Civil Appointments take note.

HONGKONG.

The weather during the past week has been very wretched indeed and on most days a drizzling rain has fallen, while a thick mist has hung about the colony. The London Missionary Society's centenary was celebrated on Wednesday by a meeting at the City Hall. On the following day a Marine Court of Inquiry was held respecting the loss of the barque *Lynwood* and the master was exonerated from blame. On Friday the shareholders in the Hongkong Hotel Company, Limited, met, and on Saturday a meeting of the shareholders in the National Bank of China was held. The schooner *Esmealda* arrived in port on Tuesday morning after a most memorable voyage, during which the crew suffered terrible privations. Much interest was manifested in sporting circles by the opening of the new golf house last week, and on Saturday a large crowd assembled at the Happy Valley to witness the final in the Hongkong Football Cup Competition. The total number of plague cases reported up to yesterday was 224, and 192 deaths had been recorded.

There were 2,540 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 224 were Europeans. In the Rugby match on the 9th March the Hongkong Football Club beat the Garrison by one try and one goal, or eight points, to nil.

On the afternoon of the 6th March Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., addressed the Odd Volumes Society on the subject of the Navy League.

The first steamer of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha's line to Europe is advertised to sail from Hongkong on the 30th March.

The proposal to raise the fees of the Board of the Union Insurance Society of Canton, Limited, from \$7,000 to \$12,000 has been abandoned.

The advertised sale of building material from the Taipingshan plague district, to which reference was made in a previous issue, has been cancelled.

The reappointment of the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai to be an unofficial member of the Legislative Council on the expiry of his former appointment is gazetted.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that Mr. A. Seth has been appointed Deputy Registrar and Appraiser of the Supreme Court with effect from the 21st February.

Earl and Countess Spencer, who are making a "round the world tour," are at present in Hongkong. His Lordship has visited the Naval Yard and the Docks.

The German steamer *Cosmopolit*, which arrived here on the 4th March from Swatow, reports having rescued two Chinese fishermen from a capsized boat, 1½ miles off Cape of Good Hope.

We regret to learn that sickness has broken out amongst the herd of the Hongkong Dairy Farm Co., Limited. A special meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on Tuesday afternoon in connection with this matter.

The stamp revenue last month amounted to \$19,014, showing a decrease of \$137 on the amount collected in the corresponding month of 1895. Most of the items show an increase, but under the head of probate there is a decrease of \$2,122.

The following application was received at this office on the 6th March:—Dear Sir I am very glad to inform you to aloud me a situation in your mail Sir I study english in queen's collage for three years and I was in the class of 4B. You disobedian servant.—

The accident which has delayed the N. P. steamer *Hankow* at Yokohama is a crack in her shaft, which occurred on the 23rd February. The weather being favourable she succeeded in reaching port on the 25th idem under sail with slight help from the engines, the latter being run at a very slow rate.

At Hanoi an officer has been commissioned to come to Hongkong to purchase \$5,000 worth of furniture for the residence of the Governor-General. The *Indo-Chine Francaise* protests against this, maintaining that the furniture required should be purchased locally or at least ordered through local firms.

The P. M. steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, from San Francisco, is overdue. She left San Francisco on the 6th February and is scheduled to leave Hongkong on the 12th inst., but so far no news has been received of her arrival at Yokohama. The *Gaelic*, which left San Francisco on the 15th February, nine days later than the *Rio*, arrived at Yokohama on the 6th inst.

The following promotions in the Police Force were issued on the 3rd March:—Chief Inspector Corcoran to be Acting Deputy Superintendent of Police and Assistant Superintendent of the Fire Brigade; Inspector Mackie Acting Chief Inspector; Inspector Hanson acting first class Inspector; Inspector Baker acting second class Inspector; and Sergeant Witchell acting third class Inspector.

The Secretary of the Punjom Mining Co., Limited, advises us that he has received the following telegram from the mine, being the result of the February clean-up:—"The mill ran 26 days, crushing 1,000 tons of ore for a yield of 448 ozs. of smelted gold. Twelve tons of concentrates have been calcined, yielding 52 ozs. of gold. The 500 ozs. won have been shipped to Singapore."

On the 9th March Mr. Robert Edward McBirney, solicitor, was admitted and enrolled as a solicitor to practise in the Supreme Court of Hongkong. Mr. McBirney, who has practised in Dublin and Australia, was introduced by Hon. H. E. Pollock (Acting Attorney-General), who was instructed by Mr. Deacon, and the application was made before Hon. W. M. Goodman (Acting Chief Justice.)

A sixteen year old Chinese boy was watching the fire in Queen's Road Central on the morning of the 9th March when he was killed on the spot by a truck which had got beyond control in East Street and travelled down the hill to Queen's Road. The shaft of the truck, which was loaded with boxes, struck the boy on the chest. Two coolies who were in charge of the truck were arrested, as it is alleged that the fatality was due to their negligence. They were brought up at the Police Court yesterday and remanded.

Twenty years ago the dollar was worth four shillings and sound investments in Hongkong yielded ten per cent. or thereabouts. Consequently a man possessed of \$50,000 might retire with the comfortable income of £1,000 sterling. Nowadays the dollar is worth little more than two shillings and the current rate of interest is six per cent. On this basis \$50,000 yields only £300. What a falling off was there! To secure an equivalent income a man must save or make more than three times the amount required twenty years ago.

Two men were seen by an Indian constable carrying a dead body along the Praya, on Monday evening, and when they caught sight of the policeman they dropped the body and ran away. However, one of them was caught, and inquiries made by Inspector Witchell proved that this man was employed to carry the body by the master of the Yan Shan coffin shop. At the Police Court on the 3rd March they were both charged with committing a nuisance and endangering the public health, and the Magistrate fined the master \$25 and the coolie \$10. The deceased had died of plague.

At eleven p.m. on Saturday night a watchman on duty in Wai Tak Lane discovered a burning joss stick, attached to which were a box of matches and some paper soaked in kerosine, in the compositors' room of the *Chinese Mail* office. The watchman instantly extinguished the light and so thwarted what was undoubtedly an attempt to set fire to the premises. The compositors were in the room at the time, but they were so intent upon listening to the singing of a blind girl that they were totally unconscious of the incendiary act until it was pointed out to them. The police are making enquiries about the affair.

At 4.10 on the morning of the 9th March the Fire Brigade were called to a fire which had broken out on the ground floor of 307, Queen's Road Central, which is used as a miscellaneous store. The fire spread rapidly to the first and second floors, which were occupied by families, and before the firemen could extinguish the flames the whole building was gutted and one house on each side damaged by fire and water. The origin of the outbreak is said to have been the upsetting of a kerosine lamp in the cockloft of the ground floor, which is insured in the Meiji Insurance Company for \$2,200.

At one o'clock on the morning of the 3rd March the firebell was rung, but almost simultaneously a telephone message to the Central Police Station and Fire Office advised the brigade not to turn out. It seems that a few bits of rubbish caught fire on the verandah of a family house at 38, Hollywood Road, occupied by the master of the Sing Tai shop, Queen's Road Central, and immediately the flames were seen the alarm was given. Fortunately, however, practically no damage was done, as the burning rubbish was thrown into the street in a very short time, and so the services of the Brigade were not required.

A Chinese doctor named Wong San Chan, of 307, Queen's Road West, was charged at the Police Court on the 3rd March with failing to report a case of plague. The defendant attended the patient, Ng Oi, on the first floor of 14, Pokfulam Road, and when death from plague took place the doctor failed to report it. Dr. Atkinson, who examined the body, said there was a swelling in the deceased's neck. The defendant said he did not know the law, and further excused himself by saying that his patient suffered from fever and he did not see a swelling in the neck. The Magistrate, Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, fined the defendant \$25 or a month's imprisonment.

The members of the British Mercantile Marine Officers' Association gave a most enjoyable smoking concert on Thursday evening in the rooms of the Association. There was an

exceedingly large attendance and the proceedings were throughout of the heartiest character. The programme contained no fewer than fifteen items, all of which proved most acceptable, and encores were in many instances insisted upon, so that it was early in the morning when the entertainment was brought to a close. Mr. C. T. Robinson appeared in several character songs and was warmly applauded for his efforts. The others who assisted were Messrs T. Lea, R. D. Thomas, H. B. Bridger, G. Williams, N. Buchwaldy, and C. Crispin.

On looking into the figures given by our correspondents "Shareholders" in Tuesday's issue and identifying the directors indicated in their letter by letters of the alphabet, we find that of the total sum of \$83,668 divided as directors' fees amongst the twelve gentlemen mentioned, \$34,748, or 41.6 per cent., is divided amongst six Englishmen, \$26,915, or 32 per cent., amongst three Germans, and \$22,000, or 26.4 per cent., amongst two Jews and one Armenian. The average works out at \$8,971 for a German, \$7,333 for a Jew or Armenian, and \$5,791 for an Englishman. The latter, with the exception of the gentleman at the head of the list, come in at or near the bottom. The average over the whole list is a trifle short of \$7,000 per man.

About 9.20 on Tuesday night there was a most unusual scene in the passage between the Hongkong Hotel and Messrs. Blackhead and Co.'s premises. By some extraordinary means Messrs. Blackhead's gas meter was fired and two huge roaring flames shot from the pipes and seemed to threaten destruction to the whole place. The meter was enclosed in a wooden box and this was torn right away as soon as possible by a watchman, a civilian, and one or two coolies, and the force of the flames then became greater. Fortunately, however, the thick brick wall and the granite floor prevented the fire from spreading, and efforts were directed to extinguishing the blaze. After working about half an hour the fire was completely smothered by a heavy wet bed which was wrapped firmly round it, and beyond wasting a considerable quantity of gas practically no damage was done. The Fire Brigade were not called, but Mr. Kinghorn, engineer to the Brigade, was there and rendered very valuable assistance. How the gas meter caught fire is a mystery.

COMMERCIAL.

SILK.

CANTON, 10th March.—Tsatlees and Re-reels.—Nothing doing for Europe or America. Values are upheld by light stocks here and by full prices paid for Tsatlees by Bombay buyers. Filatures.—Comparatively little has been doing for Lyons, owing chiefly to the firmness of Exchange at the advanced rates, which has restricted the fortnight's settlements to about 250 bales. Holders have modified their ideas accordingly and closing quotations show a decline of \$10/15 per picul. Prices paid are \$660/655 for Min King Lun 11/13, 12/14, \$650 for Wing Wo Lun 9/11, \$645 for Luen Kee 9/11, \$635 for Chung Sun Hang 10/12, \$630/625 for Poo Cheong Wo and Kwong King Cheong 10/12, \$610 for Kum Lun Tai 10/12, \$537/535 for Wai King Wo and Kin Cheong Loong 13/22, \$535/515 for 3rd order 11/13, 13/15. No settlements are reported for America. First class 14/16 (Chung Sun Hang, etc.) is held for \$605/610. Waste—Continues in fair enquiry at unchanged rates. Stocks.—Tsatlees: 800 bales. Filature, 10,000 bales, reeled and unreeled, to close of season. We append quotations in Canton, with laying down cost in London and Lyons, Exchange 6 months' sight 2/3 and Fcs. 2.85 per Dollar:—

Tsatlees	No. 1	\$400			
	No. 2	\$475			
	No. 3	\$460			
	No. 4	\$440			
	No. 4½	\$430			
	No. 5	\$415			
			Nominal		
					9/14
					8/10
					8/6½
					8/2½
					8/-
					7/8½
Filature	1st class	11/13...	\$655 to \$645		
	1st "	13/15...	\$655 to \$645		
	2nd "	9/11...	\$645 to \$650		
	2nd "	10/12...	\$635		
	2nd "	13/15...	\$620 to \$630		
	2nd "	10/12...	\$610 to \$620		
	3rd "	11/13...	\$640 to \$620		
	3rd "	13/15...	\$640 to \$620		
Long-reels	Lacklow		\$495		
	Satow		\$450		
	Suilam		\$415		

Re-reeled Lacklow No. 1..\$550	Grant-reel.	
No. 2..\$585		
No. 3..\$520		
No. 4..\$500		
Mahang ...No. 1 \$525		=1/7 1/2
Punjam Books No. 3 & 4..\$ 83		=1/5 1/2
Punjam Waste		=1/7
Steam Waste Extra		=1/2 1/2
No. 1		=1/4 1/2
Gum Waste No. 1		=1/0 1/2
No. 2		=1/3
Pierced Cocoons		
Settlements for the fortnight:—		
1895-96.		1894-95.
For Europe ... 200 bales		800 bales
For America .. nil		150 "
For Bombay .. 60 "		50 "
[& 30 piculs.		[& 25 piculs.

SHANGHAI, 5th March.—(From Messrs. Cronie and Burkill's circular.)—London telegrams to 8rd current quote Gold Killing 8/0. Blue Elephants 10/6 with a quiet market. Raw Silk.—Demand has not improved during the interval, and we have had a very quiet market since date of our last issue. Tsaltees.—About 100 bales have found buyers at quotations given below. Taysaams.—Are rather more enquired for, and about 200 bales have been settled. Yellow Silk.—Have also been more freely dealt in, about 250 bales having changed hands. Wild Silk.—Contracts have been made for 100 to 150 bales Filatures 6, 7 and 8 Cocoons at Tls. 2.65 to Tls. 2.70. Waste Silk.—No transactions. Pongees.—Some 1,500 pieces have been taken principally by buyers for the Indian market at Tls. 2.65 to Tls. 2.70 for 22/23 oz. goods of various makes.

Purchases include:—Tsaltees.—Red Pagoda 3 at Tls. 431 1/2, Yachmay Seeling at Tls. 332 1/2. Taysaam.—Green Kahing Green Almond Flower 1 at Tls. 325, 9/12 Moss Double Butterfly 1 at Tls. 333 1/2, Green Stork 4 at Tls. 320. Chincum.—Tiger Chop Ting Tinghow at Tls. 365, Tinghow at Tls. 355, Tayhow at Tls. 345. Yellow Silk.—Mianchow at Tls. 242 1/2 to Tls. 245. Kopun at Tls. 225, Meeyang Tls. 220 to Tls. 237 1/2, Foo-yung at Tls. 207 1/2 to Tls. 210, Wongchow at Tls. 207 1/2, Szechong at Tls. 185. Wild Silk.—Tussah Filature 8 Cocoons (contract) at Tls. 265 to Tls. 270.

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 11th March.—The market is firm. Quotations for Formosa are \$90.00 to \$90.50. During the past week sales have been 300 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 11th March.—The market is dull and prices slightly lower. Following are the quotations:—
Shekloong, No. 1, White...\$7.35 to 7.37 per picul.
do. " 2, White... 6.72 to 6.75 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown... 4.70 to 4.72 "
do. " 2, Brown... 4.57 to 4.60 "
Swatow, No. 1, White... 7.30 to 7.32 "
do. " 2, White... 6.67 to 6.70 "
do. " 1, Brown... 4.57 to 4.60 "
Swatow, No. 2, Brown... 4.60 to 4.62 "
Fochow Sugar Candy.....10.85 to 10.90 "
Shekloong " 9.80 to 9.82 "

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

The steamer *Port Adelaide*, Hongkong to New York, 29th February, took:—9,527 rolls Matting, 5,368 packages Fire Crackers, 23 cases Bristles, 25 cases Preserves, and 153 packages Merchandise.

The British ship *Brodict Castle*, Hongkong to San Francisco, 2nd March, took:—9,837 bags Rice, 8,960 bags Sugar, 6,919 packages Merchandise, 2,956 packages Fire Crackers, 2,821 bags Tapioca, 1,000 bales Jute, 845 packages Tea, 933 bags Black Pepper, 44 bags White Pepper, 740 bales Gambier, 500 cases Cement, 200 bales Kapok, 200 boxes Oil, 120 bales Rattancore, 100 boxes Cassia, 65 rolls Matting, 55 bales Split Rattan, 811 cases Molasses, 28 bags Cloves, 20 packages Rattan Piddicks, 10 cases Straw Cuffs, and 8 cases Mace.

The German steamer *Prins Heinrich*, Hongkong to Aden, 3rd March, took:—500 bags Sugar; for Amsterdam:—6 cases Preserves, 1 case Blackwoodware, and 80 cases Ginger; for Antwerp:—164 bales Tobacco, 2 cases Cigars, 72 cases Ginger, 2 cases Curios, 6 cases Bristles, 128 bales Feathers, 115 bales Rattancore, 41 packages Cassia, 1 case Vermillion, 2 packages Rattanreed, 48 bales Bambooware, 75 rolls Matting, 17 cases Bristles, and 60 bales Canes; for Hamburg:—1 case Silverware, 2 cases Sundries, 254 bales Feathers, 40 cases Bristles, 20 cases Essential Oil,

and 20 cases Soy; for Bremen:—2 cases Curios, 174 rolls Matting, and 1 case Blackwoodware; for St. Petersburg:—1 box Private Effects.

The steamship *Nerite*, Hongkong to London, 3rd March, took:—25 cases Preserves, 100 cases Soy, 101 cases Camphor, and 150 rolls Matting; for Hamburg:—20 bales Rattans, 55 bales Canes, 150 cases Cassia, and 342 bales Feathers; for London option Hamburg:—4 1/2 bales Rattans.

The steamer *Oceanien*, Hongkong to Continent, 4th March, took:—15 1/2 bales Raw Silk, 2 cases Silk Piece Goods, 8 cases Tea, 1 case Cassia, and 8 bundles Canes; for London:—1 case Silk Piece Goods.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 11th March.—Bengal.—There has not been much doing and rates after a slight advance have reverted to the figures at which they stood at date of our last report, closing quotations being \$787 1/2 for New Patna, \$797 1/2 for Old Patna, \$767 1/2 for New Benares, and \$790 for Old Benares.

Malwa.—A fair amount of business has been transacted in this drug during the interval at declining rates. The following are the current figures:—

New\$750 with allowance 1/2 to 1 1/2 cattie's
Old\$760 " 1/2 to 1 1/2 "
Old (3-4 yrs.) 770 " 1/2 to 1 1/2 "

Persian.—The market has continued stagnant, and a decline in prices has taken place without resulting in any business. Oily is quoted at the close at \$600 to \$630, and Paper-wrapped at \$680 to \$735 according to quality.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—

New Patna	946 chests
Old Patna	1,006 "
New Benares	593 "
Old Benares	272 "
Malwa	419 "
Persian	1,356 "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1896.						
Mar. 4	\$ 805	\$ 810	\$ 780	\$ 800	\$ 760	\$ 770
Mar. 5	805	810	780	800	760	770
Mar. 6	805	810	780	800	760	770
Mar. 7	800	812 1/2	780	802 1/2	760	770
Mar. 8	800	810	780	800	760	770
Mar. 9	795	805	775	795	760	770
Mar. 10	790	800	770	790	760	770
Mar. 11	787 1/2	797 1/2	767 1/2	790	750	760 770

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 11th March.—Supplies of Bengal continue to arrive on a large scale, and consequently rates have declined about \$1 1/2 per picul. Ningpo, there is no change to report. Stocks: Bengal, 3,600 bales; Ningpo, 350 bales.

Bombay	\$12.00 to 16.50 p. pl.
Kurrachee	12.00 to 16.00 "
Bengal, Rangoon, and Dacca	12.00 to 17.00 "
Shanghai and Japanese..	19.00 to 21.00 "
Tungchow and Ningpo..	19.00 to 21.00 "
Madras	13.00 to 17.00 "

Sales: 725 bales Bengal, Rangoon and Dacca; 100 bales Tungchow and Ningpo.

RICE.

HONGKONG, 11th March.—Strong demand continues and prices are advancing. Closing quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	per picul.
" Round, good quality	\$2.52 to 2.54
" Long	2.70 to 2.73
"	2.80 to 2.82
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2	2.71 to 2.74
" Garden, " No. 1	2.87 to 2.90
" White	3.20 to 3.22
" Fine Cargo	3.32 to 3.35

COALS.

HONGKONG, 11th March.—Market continues very dull; no business reported. Quotations are:—

Cardiff	\$12.00 to — ex ship, nominal.
Australian ...	7.50 to 8.00 ex ship, nominal.
Milke Lump...	\$5.60 to 5.75 ex ship, steady
Milke Small...	4.85 to — ex ship, do
Moji Lump ...	4.00 to 5.50 ex ship, nominal.
Kebao Lump...	6.00 to 7.00 ex ship, nominal.

Kebao Small... 4.00 to 4.50 ex ship, nominal.
Hongay Lump. 7.00 to — ex ship, nominal.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 11th March.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS:—*Bombay Yarn.*—620 bales No. 10 at \$72 to \$78.50, 415 bales No. 12 at \$72 to \$77.50, 120 bales No. 16 at \$87.50 to \$92, 510 bales No. 20 at \$88.50 to \$93, 10 bales No. 22/24 Black Dragon at \$115. *T-Cloths.*—375 pieces 7 lbs. Mexican 4 Dragon and Flag. *Blankets.*—500 pieces 5 1/2 lbs. Scarlet at \$3.19, 300 pieces 8 lbs. Scarlet at \$4.16, 300 pieces 9 lbs. Scarlet at \$4.68, 600 pieces 10 lbs. Scarlet at \$5.20, 300 pieces 12 lbs. Scarlet at \$6.24.

METAL.—Iron.—2,000 bundles small round rods at \$3.45, 500 kegs wire nails at \$1.4 1/2. *Lead.*—300 tons Australia at \$6.70. *Tin.*—150 slabs Siam at \$36.30. *Quicksilver.*—700 flasks at \$108.50 to \$109.25.

SHANGHAI, 5th March.—(From Mr. Geo. W. Noel's report.)—It was hoped at the commencement of the interval that exchange had settled back to a steady basis and buyers would have no cause to fear any rise of importance in the near future. This, however, was not to be and business is again disturbed by it, although, considering the Natives are just in the thick of arranging for the first shipments to the North, it was scarcely likely much attention would be paid at the moment to further buying. Their requirements, outside what they have already bought, must be comparatively light, and any attempt to force goods on them, as some appear inclined to do, can only cause embarrassment and not be conducive to the welfare of the trade generally. The first steamers for Tientsin, as announced last week, were despatched this morning, carrying only rice and "chowchow" cargo, those with piece goods and yarn sailing on the morning of the 8th instant. The quantity to be taken is not yet definitely settled, being variously estimated up to 35,000 packages, including yarn, which is considerably more than last year of course, but about the average of former seasons. Unlike previous years they will arrive to a market that is already opened, and, judging by the quotations that have come to hand the last day or two, prices are quite up to the ruling here recently. Business has naturally not been very extensive there owing to the paucity of stock, and it remains to be seen whether prices will stand the large supplies going forward. American makes as usual form a large proportion of the intended shipments and seem to be attracting most attention in that market. The advices concerning the markets in Szechuen are not very satisfactory, the rebellion in the Northwest having interfered with the trade considerably and orders are consequently coming forward very slowly. Business with Korea is at a standstill at present, though the dealers are looking forward hopefully to a resumption of the trade in the near future. The sales reported this week are few and far between, the extra heavy quantities offered at auction having rather a depressing effect on the market for spot cargo, as it is feared they may be continued on that scale, for a time at least. In view of this the dealers are not unnaturally anxious to place as much of their own cargo as possible, and judging by the deliveries they are succeeding fairly well. The Manchester market is easier, quotations for most goods being fully 1 1/2 d. lower. Cotton is also down again, being now 4 3/4 d. The export for last month was 38 million yards of Plain Cottons against 28 millions in 1895, and 49 millions in 1894 the same month, so that although heavy it is not exceptionally large. The shipments of Yarn to Japan, Hongkong and Shanghai amounted altogether to 8,000 bales, of which 1,200 bales and 1,000 bales are for the two latter markets respectively.

Metals.—(From Mr. Alex. Bielfeld's report.)—6th March.—Business during the week has been moderate, but by no means brisk. The Tientsin river is open and steamers are leaving for the North shortly, but it is expected not with full cargoes, as there is no demand from that quarter for rice this year. The British Trade Commissioner, Consul Brennan, is now in Shanghai gathering trade information for the British Government with a view to the extension of British trade with China. *Lead.*—Values remain about the same, and 100/200 tons L. P. have been sold at £12.8.0, c.i.f. *Nailrods.*—The heavy advance in cost of Continental iron has kept buyers hanging back, but makers show no signs of weakness. 100 tons Sohlers Exp., "spot" cargo, have been sold at Tls. 2.40, ex godown. Present quotations for Belgian Rods are 118s.

to 122/6, c.i.f. Redcar Pig Iron has also advanced, sales having been made at 58s. to 60s. c.i.f. to the extent of some 500 tons. Bar Iron.—200 to 300 tons new brand have been booked at about 116s. c.i.f. Tinplates.—Buyers are scarce, and home market steady at about 11s. for L. C. W., 14 by 20. 500 to 1,000 boxes have been sold, "to arrive." Orders have been placed for Sheet Zinc and Galvanised Iron for fair quantities.

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 11th March.—The market has continued fairly active, and most stocks have changed hands at enhanced values and in fair quantities. The tone at time of closing is decidedly strong.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai in the early part of the week fell without business to 173 per cent. prem.; later, however, a small demand sent the rate up to 174 with small sales, and later still, with rumours of a large loan having been arranged with the Chinese Government, rates suddenly jumped to 180, with sales at that, but at no intermediate rates. At time of writing shares are in demand at 184 to 185 per cent. prem.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders have ruled firm with sales at \$77, \$78, and \$78½, closing with buyers. Unions have improved to \$200, after further sales at \$195, and Cantons have followed suit, both closing steady at \$200. Straits, after further sales at \$27, changed hands at \$27½, \$27¾, \$28, \$28½, and \$29 for cash and the end of the month, also at \$30 for May, Shanghai being the chief buyer. Yangtzes and North-Chinas have found buyers at quotations.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have ruled somewhat quieter and, after small sales at \$305, \$307½, and \$310, close steady. Chinas have advanced to \$91, after further sales at \$90.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton, and Macao.—With the withdrawal of the settlement shares referred to in our last from the market, most of which appear to have been taken up or otherwise provided for, the rate gradually improved, with sales at \$32½, \$32¾, \$33½, and \$33, to \$33½, a good many shares changing hands at these rates. Market closes steady at \$33½. Douglas's have ruled firmer in anticipation of an interim dividend, which, however, appears to be somewhat problematical, or at any rate "previous," the accounts for the half-year not having yet been made up and the results of the last three months' working being reported as not at all satisfactory; as the last three months, however, included China New Year, at which, as well as for sometime before and after, shipping business is always slack, too much importance should not be attached to the reported period of unsatisfactory working. Shares have changed hands at \$52, \$52½, and \$53, market closing steady with sales at \$52½. Indo-Chinas have continued neglected at \$65. China and Manilas after further small sales at \$70 close somewhat easy at that rate. The Company has issued its report, which is briefly as follows:—A dividend of 10 per cent. to shareholders, \$10,000 to reserve, and \$974.02 to credit of new working account. China Mutuals changed hands in small lots at £8 5s. for preferences and £2 10s. for ordinaries, market closing with buyers at higher rates.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars continued in some demand up North and further sales were effected at \$120 cash, and at \$125 and \$126 for June and July, at time of closing shares are obtainable at \$119, after sales at that rate. Luzons have been negotiated at \$60, \$61, \$62, \$63, \$64, and \$66, closing with buyers at latter rate. We understand that a dividend of \$5 is about to be declared and that the prospects of the Company are very good, owing to a great extent to the trouble in Cuba.

MINING.—Punjoms after further sales at \$7 close weakish at \$6.75. Balmorals have changed hands at \$1.70, Jelebus at \$2.75, and Raubs at \$4.25 in small lots. The market has ruled inactive throughout the week.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks, after further sales at 150 per cent. prem. cash, gradually rose to 161 with sales at the latter and intermediate rates. On time a fair number of shares changed hands at 164 and 165 for April, and at 166 and 167 for May. At time of writing a few shares have changed hands at 160, and market closes steady at that rate. Kowloon Wharves have found further buyers at \$48, but sellers at

that rate rule the market. Wanchai Godowns continue neglected.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Further sales of Lands at \$74, Hotels at \$23, and West Points at \$18 are all we have to report under this heading. Market closes steady.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Watsons have materially improved their position, sales having been effected at \$12, \$12.25, \$12.50, and \$12.75, market closing firm. Electrics have changed hands at \$7 and more shares are wanted at the rate without bringing out sellers. Ropes have been neglected at \$200 and \$195. Fenwicks have continued in demand and the rate has risen to \$24 without sales. Ices have found further buyers at \$100 and more are wanted at the rate. Tramways have been in demand without leading to business at \$87½, and Green Islands after sales at \$14.50 and \$14.75 are wanted at \$15.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		[\$355, buyers]
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	184 p. c. prem., =
China & Japan, pref.	£5	nominal
Do. ordinary	£1 10s.	nominal
Do. deferred	£1	£2, buyers
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	£8	\$26, ex div.
F. m. Shares	£1	\$105, sellers
Bell's Assurance Co., Ltd.	15s.	\$10
Brown & Co., H. G.	\$50	\$4, sellers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$5, buyers
Carmichael & Co.	\$20	\$9
China Sugar	\$100	\$119, sales
Chinese Loan & E. Co.	Tls. 250	10 p. c. prem.
Dakin, Crickell & Co.	\$5	\$1
Dairy Farm Co.	\$10	\$9
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$24, buyers
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$15, buyers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$36
Hongkong & C. Gas	£10	\$109, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$8	\$7, sales & buyers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$87½, sales & buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$23, buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$100, sales & buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$48, sales & buyers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$190, sales & buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$125	160 p. c. prem., =
Insurances—		[\$325, sales]
Canton	\$50	\$200, sales
China Fire	\$50	\$91, sales
China Traders'	\$25	\$78½, sales & buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$310, sales & buyers
North-China	£25	Tls. 222½, buyers
Straits	\$20	\$29, sales & buyers
Union	\$25	\$200, sales & buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$132
Land and Building—		
H. Land Investment	\$50	\$74, sales & sellers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$8.50, sales
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$16½, sales & buyers
West Point Building	\$40	\$18, sales
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$66, buyers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 500	\$72½
Jelebu	\$5	\$2.75, sales & buyers
New Balmoral	\$3	\$1.70, sales
Punjom	\$4	\$6½, sellers
Do. (Preference)	\$1	\$2, sales
Raubs	13s. 10d.	\$4.25, sales & sellers
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$70, sales
China Mutual	£5	£2.10, sales ex div.
Douglas S. S. Co.	\$50	\$52½, sales
H. Canton and M.	\$15	\$33½, sales & buyers
Indo-China S. N.	£10	\$64, sellers
Wanchai Warehouse Co.	\$37½	\$39, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$12½, sales & buyers

CLATER & VERNON, Share Brokers.

SHANGHAI, 6th March.—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s report.)—The market has been active during the week, with advancing prices in most of the stocks dealt in. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Shares were placed at 175 per cent. premium (\$343.75). Business was also done for 8th April at 179 per cent. premium (\$348.75). There are sellers at 174 per cent. premium (\$342.50) for cash. The Hongkong quotation is 174 per cent. The London rate is £40.15.0 ex div. Shipping.—Indo-China S. N. shares have been in strong demand, and business has been done at Tls. 46 to Tls. 47½ cash, Tls. 48 and \$60 from Hongkong for April, Tls. 48½ and from Hongkong at \$67 for May, and Tls. 50½ for July. China Mutual S. N. Co.—Preference shares have been sold at Tls. 52½, and ordinary shares, with £5 paid up, at Tls. 14. Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat shares have been placed at \$82. Docks.—Shares in S. C. Farnham & Co. have been sold for delivery on the 31st current at Tls. 192½. Hongkong and

Whampoa Dock shares have been purchased, from Hongkong, at 152 per cent. premium, ex div. The Hongkong quotation is now 155 per cent. premium. Marine Insurance.—China Traders' Insurance shares are wanted. Yangtzes have been placed at \$125, Straits Insurance Co. shares have been in demand, and have been sold at \$26/23½ for cash, \$28 for March delivery, \$29 for April, and \$30½ for May. Fire Insurance.—Hongkongs have changed hands at \$286 ex and \$305 cum dividend. Chinas have been placed at \$88½ cash, at \$89½ for March delivery and \$91 for April, and to Hongkong at \$89½ and \$91 cash. Wharves.—Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares were placed at Tls. 110 and are wanted, and Hongkong and Kowloon were purchased from Hongkong at \$48. Mining.—Raubs were purchased from Hongkong at \$1.25. Sugars.—Perak Sugar Cultivation shares were placed at Tls. 42, Tls. 42½, and Tls. 41 for cash, and Tls. 45 for June, China Sugar Refining shares were sold at \$115 for cash, and \$119 to Hongkong, and \$118½ for 31st March, and \$118 and \$125 for 30th June. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment shares, with Tls. 30 paid up, were placed at Tls. 60 and are offering. Hongkong Land Investment shares were purchased from Hongkong at \$74½. Humphreys Estate & Finance shares were purchased from Hongkong at \$9. Factories.—Shares in Major Brothers were placed at Tls. 30, Ewo Cotton shares at Tls. 65, Laon-kung-mow shares at Tls. 72½, Soey Chee shares at Tls. 300, and Shanghai Ice shares at Tls. 130. Miscellaneous.—Business was done in:—Shanghai Gas shares at Tls. 260, Shanghai Waterworks shares at Tls. 205, Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco shares at Tls. 103, Shanghai Langkat Tobacco shares at Tls. 305 and Tls. 310 cash, and Tls. 320 for both April and May, Shanghai Horse Bazaar shares at Tls. 57½ cash, and Tls. 55 for 30th April, and Hall & Holtz shares at \$32. Loans.—Shanghai Lands Investment Company's Debentures was sold at Tls. 110 plus the accrued interest.

Quotations are:—

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—\$342½.
Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited.—Nominal.
Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited, Founders.—Nominal.
National Bank of China, Ltd., A.—none.
National Bank of China, Ltd., B.—\$27.
National Bank of China, Ltd., Founders.—\$105.
Shanghai Tugboat Co., Ltd.—Tls. 165 per share.
Indo-China Steam N. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 47½ per share.
China Mutual Steam Nav. Co.—Tls. 52½ per share.
Taku Tug & Lighter Co., Ltd.—T. Tls. 75 per share.
Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co.—\$31½ per share.
Douglas Steamship Co., Ltd.—\$51½ per share.
Boyd & Co., Ltd., Founders.—Tls. 300 per share.
Boyd & Co., Limited.—Tls. 200 per share.
S. C. Farnham & Co.—Tls. 190 per share.
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd.—\$315 per share.
China Traders' Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$73 per sh.
North China Insurance Co., Ltd.—Tls. 225 p. sh.
Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ltd.—\$192½ per share.
Yangtze Insce. Assocn., Ltd.—\$125 per share.
Canton Insurance Office, Ltd.—\$190 per share.
Straits Insurance Co., Limited.—\$28½ per share.
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$305½ per share.
China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$89 per share.
Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co.—Tls. 110 per share.
Bird's Wharf Hide-curing and Wool-cleaning Company.—Tls. 55 per share.
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited.—\$41½ per share.
Sheridan Consolidated Mining and Milling Company, Limited.—Tls. 2½ per share.
Punjom Mining Co., Ltd.—\$5½ per share.
Punjom Mining Co., Ltd., pref. shares—\$1.70 per share.
Jelebu Mining & Trading Co., Ltd.—\$5 per share.
Raub Australian Gold Min. Co., Ltd.—\$4½ per share.
Shanghai Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 220 per share.
Co-operative Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 200 per share.
Shanghai Gas Co.—Tls. 230 per share.
Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd.—\$64 per share.
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.—Tls. 205 per share.

Perak Sugar Cultivation Co., Ltd.—Tls. 41 per share.
 China Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$117 per share.
 Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$60 per share.
 Hall & Holts, Ltd.—\$33 per share.
 Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd.—Tls. 80 per share.
 Hongkong Land Invest. & A. Co., Ltd.—\$74½ per share.
 Kowloon Land & Building Co., Ltd.—\$15½.
 J. Llewellyn & Co., Limited.—\$70 per share.
 Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ltd.—Tls. 57½ per share.
 Major Brothers, Limited.—Tls. 30 per share.
 Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco Co.—Tls. 105 per sh.
 Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ltd.—Tls. 310 per share.
 Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ltd., Founder's—Nominal.
 Shanghai Ice Company—Tls. 130 per share.
 A. S. Watson Co., Limited.—\$11½ per share.
 Bell's Asbestos Eastern Agency, Ltd.—\$1.
 Bell's Asbestos Eastern Agency, Ltd.—\$94.
 Ewo Cotton Spinning & W. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 65.
 International Cotton Man. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 75.
 Laou-kung-mow Cotton Spinning and Weaving Co., Ltd.—Tls. 72½.

WEDNESDAY, 11th March.
 CLOSING QUOTATIONS.
 EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	2/23
Bank Bills, on demand	2/23
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	—
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	2/24
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/34
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/34
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.79
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.85
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	2.27
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	—
Credits, 60 days' sight	—
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	181½
Bank, on demand	182
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	181½
Bank, on demand	182
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	71½
Private, 30 days' sight	72½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	¼ % pm.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	16 % pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	1 % pm.
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	8.80
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	47

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 11th March.—During the past fortnight there has been a large number of charters effected and rates correspondingly show an improvement.

From Saigon there is a smart demand for handy sized steamers for Hongkong at 15 cents per picul. Two small steamers have been taken to load for Hoilo at 20 cents per picul.

From Bangkok for this large carriers are wanted at 20 cents inside and 15 cents per picul outside the bar.

Japan coal freights to Hongkong have improved to \$1.30 per ton, at which rate several steamers are wanted. To Singapore \$1.75 is offered.

Sailing Tonnage.—There have been several settlements to load at Shanghai for Hongkong to New York at reserved terms; at the moment there is scarcely any demand.

The American ship *Tr.*, 1,181 tons, has been sold; terms not yet transpired.

There is one sailing vessel disengaged in port, registering 486 tons.

The following are the settlements:—

T. F. Oakes—American ship, 1,897 tons, Shanghai and/or Hongkong to New York, private terms.
Governor Robie—American ship, 1,627 tons, Hoilo for Hongkong to New York, private terms.

Tam O'Shanter—American ship, 1,522 tons, Hongkong to New York, private terms.
Queen Elizabeth—British ship, 1,700 tons, Hongkong to San Francisco, private terms.
Coloma—American barque, 814 tons, Hongkong to San Francisco, \$4,500 gold in full.
Elise—Norwegian barque, 516 tons, Rajang to Hongkong, \$4,330 in full.
Bonnington—British steamer, 1,332 tons, sold for \$20,000 Mex.
Progress—German steamer, 793 tons, Moji to Canton, \$1.75 per ton.
Acanor—British steamer, 2,005 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.50 per ton.
Inchdune—British steamer, 1,895 tons, Moji to Hongkong, private terms.
Cosmopolit—German steamer, 551 tons, hence to Chafco, Newchwang, and back to Canton, \$5,400 in full.
Hoihow—British steamer, 896 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 27½ cents per picul.
Inverlay—British steamer, 827 tons, Saigon to Hoilo, 20 cents per picul; thence to Hongkong, 16 cents per picul, option Manila to Japan, 30 cents per picul.
Picciola—German steamer, 875 tons, Saigon to Hoilo, 20 cents per picul.
China—German steamer, 1,093 tons, Hoihow to Singapore, passengers, \$5 each.
Marie Jensen—German steamer, 1,807 tons, Amoy to Singapore, private terms.
Shelly—British steamer, 1,267 tons, Bangkok to Hongkong, 15 and 20 cents per picul.
Skarpens—Norwegian steamer, 1,140 tons, Bangkok to Hongkong, 15 and 20 cents per picul.
Eton—British steamer, 1,746 tons, Bangkok to Hongkong, 13 and 18 cents per picul.
Bygdo—Norwegian steamer, 771 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 13 cents per picul.
Argyll—British steamer, 1,886 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 13 cents per picul.
Doris—German steamer, 808 tons, to Saigon and back, 14½ cents per picul.
Doris—German steamer, 808 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 12½ cents per picul.
Donar—German steamer, 1,201 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 13 cents per picul.
Afghan—British steamer, 1,439 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 12½ cents per picul.
Benedi—British steamer, 1,481 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 13 cents per picul.
Skuld—Norwegian steamer, 1,132 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 11½ cents per picul.
Grono—British steamer, 1,323 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 11½ cents per picul.
Anjer Head—British steamer, 1,235 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.
Macduff—British steamer, 1,882 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 13½ cents per picul.
Marie Jensen—German steamer, 1,807 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.
Donar—German steamer, 1,201 tons, hence to Mauritius and back, monthly, \$5,400 per month.
Kong Alf—Norwegian steamer, 502 tons, hence to Touron, Quinhon, and back to Hongkong, monthly, \$75 per day.
Brunhilde—German steamer, 886 tons, monthly, 3 months' re-charter, \$4,200 per month.
Deuteros—German steamer, 1,251 tons, monthly, 6 months, \$5,000 per month.
Victoria—Norwegian steamer, 988 tons, monthly, 4 months, \$5,400 per month.
Oslo—Norwegian steamer, 780 tons, monthly, 3/3 months, \$5,000 per month.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—*Tantalus* (str.), *Bombay* (str.), *Nestor* (str.), *Telena* (str.), *Tosa Maru* (str.), *Formosa* (str.).

For MARSEILLES.—*Melbourne* (str.).

For BREMEN.—*Preussen* (str.).

For HAVRE.—*Dorothea Rickmers* (str.), *Frigga* (str.), *Senta* (str.).

For VANCOUVER.—*Empress of Japan* (str.).

For SAN FRANCISCO.—*Gaelic* (str.), *City of Peking* (str.), *Coloma*, *Queen Elizabeth*.

For VICTORIA.—*Chittagong* (str.), *Tacoma* (str.).

For NEW YORK.—*Cerastes*, *Queen Olga* (str.), *T. F. Oakes*, *Ghazee* (str.).

For AUSTRALIA.—*Guthrie* (str.), *Oslo* (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

March—

3, Brindisi, British str., from Bombay.
 4, Amara, British str., from Chinkiang.
 4, Borneo, British str., from Yokohama.
 4, Choysang, British str., from Shanghai.

4, Eton, British str., from Moji.
 4, Fooksang, British str., from Canton.
 4, Oceana, German str., from Kobe.
 4, Woosung, British str., from Canton.
 4, Cosmopolit, German str., from Swatow.
 4, Activ, Danish str., from Pakhoi.
 4, Oslo, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
 4, Swatow, German str., from Haiphong.
 4, Triumph, German str., from Pakhoi.
 4, Skarpens, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
 5, Chwnshan, British str., from Saigon.
 5, Dante, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
 5, Wing Hong, British str., from Swatow.
 5, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
 5, Taisang, British str., from Canton.
 5, Yiksang, British str., from Canton.
 5, Diomed, British str., from Shanghai.
 5, Maria Teresa, Austrian str., from Kobe.
 6, Lyeemoon, German str., from Shanghai.
 6, Mongkut, British str., from Bangkok.
 6, Glenfruin, British str., from Swatow.
 6, Victoria, Swedish str., from Saigon.
 6, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Canton.
 6, Apenrade, German str., from Saigon.
 6, Amigo, German str., from Canton.
 6, Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.
 6, Kwong Mo, British str., from Tamsui.
 6, Satsuma Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.
 6, Fei Cheh, Chinese str., from Amoy.
 6, Aglaia, German str., from Hamburg.
 7, Kashing, British str., from Canton.
 7, Haitan, British str., from Foochow.
 7, Pelyang, German str., from Canton.
 7, Carmarthenshire, Brit. str., from London.
 7, Glenshiel, British str., from London.
 7, Thales, British str., from Taiwanfoo.
 7, Evandale, British str., from Kutchinotzu.
 7, Chintung, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 7, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
 7, Propontis, British str., from Saigon.
 7, Pingsuey, British str., from Liverpool.
 7, Rio, German str., from Singapore.
 7, Tientsin, British str., from Wuhu.
 8, Benedi, British str., from Saigon.
 8, Choysang, British str., from Canton.
 8, Idzumi Maru, Japanese str., from Bombay.
 8, Vorwaerts, German str., from Bangkok.
 8, Paoting, British str., from Canton.
 8, Charon Wattana, Siam bk., from Bangkok.
 8, Macduff, British str., from Samarang.
 8, Ancona, British str., from Yokohama.
 9, Chittagong, British str., from Saigon.
 9, Rhosina, British str., from Victoria.
 9, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
 9, Esmeralda, British sch., from Pagan.
 9, Kaiser-i-Hind, British str., from Bombay.
 9, Mirzapore, British str., from Shanghai.
 9, Shanghai, British str., from London.
 10, Formosa, British str., from Tamsui.
 10, Lightning, British str., from Calcutta.
 10, Wing Hong, British str., from Swatow.
 10, Machew, British str., from Bangkok.
 10, Albingia, German str., from Rangoon.
 10, Frejt, Danish str., from Hoihow.
 10, Holstein, German str., from Saigon.
 10, Loksang, British str., from Chinkiang.
 10, Lyeemoon, German str., from Canton.
 10, Chwnshan, British str., from Canton.
 11, Apenrade, German str., from Canton.
 11, Ocampo, British str., from Melbourne.
 11, Ariake Maru, Japanese str., from K'notzu.
 11, Amara, British str., from Canton.
 11, Australia, German str., from Cardiff.
 11, Cadiz, Spanish str., from Liverpool.
 11, Deuteros, German str., from Bangkok.
 11, Germania, German str., from Saigon.

March—

DEPARTURES.

4, Doris, German str., for Saigon.
 4, Inverlay, British str., for Saigon.
 4, Nagato Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.
 4, Nerite, British str., for London.
 4, Spondilus, British str., for London.
 4, Azamor, British str., for Kobe.
 4, Chingping, Chinese str., for Tientsin.
 4, Choysang, British str., for Canton.
 4, Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.
 4, Kriemhilde, German str., for Yokohama.
 4, Oceanien, French str., for Europe.
 4, Woosung, British str., for Shanghai.
 5, Amara, British str., for Canton.
 5, Adowa, British str., for Shanghai.
 5, Centaur, British str., for Kudat.
 5, Chwnshan, British str., for Canton.
 5, Fooksang, British str., for Shanghai.
 5, Kweiyang, British str., for Swatow.
 5, Letimbro, Italian str., for Bombay.
 5, Borneo, British str., for London.

6, Coptic, British str., for San Francisco.
 6, Activ, Danish str., for Hoihow.
 6, Brunhilde, German str., for Bangkok.
 6, Jacob Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Saigon.
 6, Rhodora, British str., for Sourabaya.
 6, Oscarshol, Norw. str., for Bangkok.
 6, Benalder, British str., for Kobe.
 6, Dante, German str., for Amoy.
 6, Donar, German str., for Saigon.
 6, Glenfruin, British str., for London.
 6, Lyeemoon, German str., for Canton.
 6, P. C. Klao, British str., for Bangkok.
 6, Yiksang, British str., for Swatow.
 7, Wing Hong, British str., for Swatow.
 7, Amigo, German str., for Bangkok.
 7, Oceana, German str., for Hamburg.
 7, Triumph, German str., for Hoihow.
 7, Cosmopolit, German str., for Amoy.
 7, Diomed, British str., for Singapore, &c.
 7, Alster, German sch., for Panape.
 7, Cromarty, British str., for Bassein.
 7, Kashing, British str., for Foochow.
 7, Maria Teresa, Aust. str., for Trieste.
 7, Marie Jebben, German str., for Amoy.
 7, P. C. C. Klao, British str., for Bangkok.
 7, Taisang, British str., for Shanghai.
 8, Apenrade, German str., for Canton.
 8, Chintung, Chinese str., for Canton.
 8, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
 8, Kong Beng, British str., for Swatow.
 8, Kong Alf, Norw. str., for Tauron.
 8, Picciola, German str., for Saigon.
 8, Swatow, German str., for Manila.
 8, Tientsin, British str., for Canton.
 8, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
 9, Fei Cheh, Chinese telg. str., for a cruise.
 9, Catarina, British steam-yacht, for S'pore.
 9, Choytang, British str., for Shanghai.
 9, Kwong Mo, British str., for Amoy.
 9, Paoting, British str., for Shanghai.
 9, Peiyang, German str., for Shanghai.
 9, Pingsuey, British str., for Shanghai.
 10, Glenshiel, British str., for Shanghai.
 10, Kaiser-i-Hind, British str., for Shanghai.
 10, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
 10, Argyll, British str., for Saigon.
 10, Eton, British str., for Bangkok.
 10, Hongkong, French str., for Hoihow.
 10, Rio, German str., for Amoy.
 10, Afghan, British str., for Saigon.
 10, Afridi, British str., for Nagasaki.
 10, Aglaia, German str., for Yokohama.
 10, Amoy, German str., for Nagasaki.
 10, Chelydra, British str., for Calcutta.
 10, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 10, Phra Nang, British str., for Bangkok.
 10, Strathleven, British str., for Moji.
 11, Sungkiau, British str., for Manila.
 11, Alger, French ironclad, for a cruise.
 11, Chowfa, British str., for Swatow.
 11, Chwshan, British str., for Swatow.
 11, Evandale, British str., for Kutchinotzu.
 11, Loksang, British str., for Canton.
 11, Mongkut, British str., for Swatow.
 11, Skarpsno, Norw. str., for Bangkok.
 11, Shanghai, British str., for Shanghai.
 11, Victoria, Swedish str., for Amoy.
 11, Elise, Norw. bark, for Rajang.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Hailoong*, str., from Coast Ports.—Mr. Nicoll, and 140 Chinese.

Per *Chelydra*, str., from Calcutta, &c.—Colonel and Mrs. Ironside Bax, Capt. Wallace, U.S.N., Messrs. Hunt and Walker, Mrs. Tavor, and 786 Chinese.

Per *Choytang*, str., from Shanghai, &c.—Mr. Beattie.

Per *Oceana*, str., from Kobe—Mr. Wood, Mr. and Mrs. Goffinet.

Per *Borneo*, str., for London from Yokohama—Miss Edwards, Mr. Yatagawa. From Kobe—Mrs. H. Lucas, Misses Lucas (3), Mr. C. Lucas, Master J. Lucas, Rev. and Mrs. Swann and 3 children, Mrs. W. H. Sale and 2 children, Misses Stuart Edwards, Tyson, Swann, and H. Spicer. From Shanghai—Mrs. Bremner and 3 children, Lieut. and Mrs. Simpson and 2 children, Dr. and Mrs. Howie and 2 children, Misses Alice Jamieson and Stewart. From Amoy—Rev. and Mrs. J. McGowan and 5 daughters, Mr. MacCallum, Misses Barneit and Muller.

Per *Yuensang*, str., from Manila—Mr. D. Earnshaw, Miss Earnshaw, Messrs. H. H. Todd and James E. Gibson.

Per *Glenshiel*, str., from London, &c.—Mr. Craig.

Per *Carmarthenshire*, str., from Singapore.—Mr. and Mrs. Spink and family, and Mr. Hagen.

Per *Chintung*, str., from Shanghai—Mr. Havers.

Per *Pingsuey*, str., from Liverpool, &c.—Mr. Houle.

Per *Ancona*, str., from Yokohama for Hongkong.—Mr. and Mrs. Hess, Mrs. Mrs. Wong Kee Chow, Mrs. Wong Ah Mok, and infant, Mrs. Calderwood, Mrs. K. S. Okura, Mrs. Ah Sain, Mrs. K. Mima, and Mrs. S. Iwata, Messrs. R. A. Jaffray, J. B. Norman, Hardenbrook, J. N. Jameson, Kwong Tong Sang, Lee Chuck Sang, S. Akaba, M. N. Yoshida, J. Tanaka, K. Miyamoto, G. Matsumoto, and T. Hamamatsu.

Per *Zafiro*, str., from Manila.—Messrs. E. H. Warner, J. M. Wood, E. Waite, Rev. P. Gabardi, Messrs. W. Reynell, P. S. Duff, A. Imhoff, Ong Capin, Yap Qui Chin, Tan Quing Diong.

Per *Kaiser-i-Hind*, str., for Hongkong from London—Mrs. Dowell and 3 children, Messrs. G. L. Plant, R. D. Locke, Hoyle, and Rigby. From Brindisi—Rev. Dr. McIvor. From Bombay—Messrs. Friskom and Hotto. From Calcutta—Earl and Countess Spencer. Mr. A. P. Brown. From Colombo—Mr. and Mrs. Raphael, Mr. and Mrs. Trevor, Mr. and Mrs. Pearce, Miss Perkins, and Mr. J. Hiraja. From Penang—Mrs. Hartigan and child. From Singapore—Sir John D. Poynder, Mrs. Barron, Messrs. T. W. Barron, E. W. Beckett, Samuel Montagu, Michaelson, W. A. Fletcher, W. Lawson, De Vaux, Mr. and Miss Hecker. For Shanghai from London—Mrs. Wade Gardner and 2 children. Mr. and Mrs. Ritchie and child, Mr. and Mrs. Botham and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. Stuart, Misses Dunster, Atherley, and Starmer, Messrs. H. A. Robertson, J. Black, J. Smith, G. Douray, Wm. Moore, and Williamson. From Brindisi—Mr. and Mrs. Ricketts. For Kobe from Colombo—Hon. H. Elphinstone. For Yokohama from London—Mr. Porch, Mr. and Mrs. Campbell, Mr. W. Vernon, Mrs. Mompes and child, Mrs. Grant, Mr. F. W. Whitlock. From Brindisi—Mr. and Mrs. Whitney, Right Hon. Earl Cairns, Mr. Guthrie. From Ismailia—Count Oriola, Dr. and Mrs. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Robertson, Count Nako, Mr. Gawthorpe, Miss Douglas. From Bombay—Mr. and Mrs. Addymann, Lady Nesta Fitzgerald, Lady Eva Fitzgerald. From Colombo—Misses Child (2). From Calcutta—Mr. and Mrs. Shenstone, Miss Shenstone, Misses Dobie and Tucker. From Marseilles—Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Ryder. For Nagasaki from London—Rev. W. Trollop. Messrs. Badcock and Hillary.

Per *Shanghai*, str., from London for Hongkong—Sub-Lieut. Bowring, Lieut. D. Dent, Midshipmen Rasleigh, Middleton, Gaseoyne, Bedwell, Johnstone, and Groves, Naval Cadets Carter, Forbes, Hon. L. Gower, McNeill, Halahan, Shoot, Noble, Hay, and Marryat. For Shanghai—Capt. McEwen. For Yokohama—Mr. C. W. Baird.

Per *Mirzapore*, str., from Shanghai for Hongkong—Mrs. King, Mons. Guinoland Bonhomme, Messrs. Cocksedge, Charles Grant, B. Wakefield, S. H. Pateshall, Lubeck, E. W. Wainwright, A. B., R. N., Hung Hing Tsun, Lim Ho Cheow, Chin Mun Tsun, A. Herd, and Lai. For Colombo—Mr. C. C. Collier. For Brindisi—Messrs. H. B. Pike, F. S. A. Bourne, Stateghen, and Lieut. Solomko. For London—Mr. and Mrs. Angus, Messrs. W. H. Marks and Clinton Jansen.

Per *Fornosa*, str., from Coast Ports.—Dr. Petersen, Messrs. L. Haesloop, and Swee, and 279 Chinese.

Per *Lightning*, str., from Calcutta, &c.—Capt. and Mrs. Shipley, Mrs. Maddock, Mrs. Murchie, Messrs. Lindsey Fitzpatrick, Bouten, Orme, Coutts, and Stewart.

DEPARTED.

Per *Prinz Heinrich*, str., from Yokohama for Southampton—Messrs. C. A. Pownell and Nishimura, Mr. and Mrs. Payne, Mr. and Mrs. Goslin. For Genoa—Mr. H. Heckert. For Antwerp—Mr. and Mrs. Landis. For Colombo—H. E. and Mrs. von Gottberg, Mrs. von Oertzen. For Suez—Mr. G. Buller. From Kobe for Genoa—Messrs. Kurdenmof and Pors and family. For Bremen—Mr. Micokens. From Nagasaki for Genoa—Mrs. Haupt, Mr. Chukowsky. From Shanghai for Bremen—Messrs. Fr. Schecke-

mann and J. Gerda. For London—Messrs. B. H. Strangmann and Pilkinton and family, Miss F. Jackson, Mrs. Hall and child, Mrs. Wilson and child. For Southampton—Mrs. McNeil. For Naples—Mr. and Mrs. Furlonge, Mr. and Mrs. Dowdall. For Genoa—Capt. Moos, Capt. Bahls, Rev. J. Bates, Mr. J. Block, Capt. Castberg. From Hongkong for Southampton—Mr. and Mrs. Makeham, Dr. and Mrs. Collasen. For Genoa—Dr. C. Gerlach. For Port Said—Mrs. D. Michler. For Singapore—Messrs. F. Lano and Ad. Looser. For Bremen—Messrs. C. A. Hansen, B. Stewart, J. Fortune, C. Rode, H. Jacquemarsen, O. Schulze, J. Davies, P. Luke, J. Thomson, S. Wilford, A. Nielsen, W. Evans, B. Ries, F. Kameda, and P. Walsh.

Per *Arratoon Apcar*, str., for Calcutta—Mr. F. F. Raper.

Per *Esmeralda*, str., for Manila—Messrs. W. P. Robertson, H. M. Bevis, J. C. Cameron, F. L. Capel, Henry Loutreul, Max Sprungli, E. Ullmann, E. Gobel, Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Coombs.

Per *Occanien*, str., from Hongkong for Saigon—Messrs. Oerton, T. C. Hutchins, Rev. Barlier, Rev. B. Brunel, and Mr. and Mrs. E. Meyer. For Singapore—Mr. and Mrs. Georg Devaky, and Mr. Jules Bloch. For Colombo—Mr. A. Jensen. For Port Said—Mr. Guido Eckhardt. For Marseilles—Mr. A. G. Stokes, Mrs. Ruff, Mrs. Lafrentz, Mrs. Wadman, Miss Corselles, Mr. and Mrs. Dubuffet, Messrs. Miguot, Eyseric, and Gucret.

Per *Coptic*, str., for Nagasaki—Mr. and Mrs. Kohn, Messrs. L. Shieler and Piewill. For Yokohama—Col. and Mrs. W. Ironside Bax, Messrs. E. R. Hunt, Hoppeler, W. D. Graham, Chong Chiu, and Low Wing. For San Francisco—Dr. C. C. Foster, Mme. E. Belinfante, Messrs. W. B. Edminster, Liang Lun Fong, Chaplain J. S. Wallace, U.S.N., Capt. J. Ross.

Per *Maria Teresa*, str., for Singapore, &c.—Mr. and Mrs. and Miss Byramjee, Messrs. Y. T. Gublay, Elias Abid, H. M. M. Ally, Yaramahal Pejomal, Khemchand Shawaram, Thamamnal Dewandus, Aloomal Namchand, Reloomal Chohimal, M. E. Tamal, Phavonmal Nanchdram, Yeerathus Tarachand, and Lalchand Phirsimal.

Per *Borneo*, str., from Hongkong for Singapore—Mr. R. Gutierrez. For London—Mr. C. Toulmin, Miss Haines, Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Bird, Mrs. Brewer and child. From Amoy for London—Dr. and Mrs. Howie and 2 children, Miss Barnett, Miss Miller, Rev. and Mrs. MacGowan and 5 daughters. From Yokohama for London—Miss Edwards, Mr. Yatagawa. From Kobe for London—Miss Stuart Edwards, Mrs. H. Lucas and 3 Misses Lucas, Mr. C. Lucas, Master J. Lucas, Rev. and Mrs. Swann and 3 children, Miss Tyson, Mrs. W. H. Sale and 2 children, Miss Swann, Miss H. Spicer. From Nagasaki for London—Mrs. Bremner and 3 children, Miss Stewart, Miss Alice Jamieson, Lieut. and Mrs. Simpson and 2 children, Mr. MacCallum.

Per *Haitan*, str., for Swatow—Mr. D. Souter. For Amoy—Mr. F. Leyburn. For Foochow—Mr. Jenkinson, Capt. Radelyffe, Lieut. Power. For Shanghai via Foochow—Mr. Prentiss.

Per *Taisang*, str., for Shanghai—Capt. Croad, Messrs. H. T. Allan and Ho Kom Tong. For Hankow—Mr. Westerberg.

Per *Yuensang*, str., for Manila—Mr. and Mrs. Ovide Musin, Messrs. Eduard Scharf, Arthur Reynolds, Mrs. Guadalupe Carrillio.

Per *Centaur*, str., for Sandakan—Messrs. Darby, Ball, and Capt. Graves.

Per *Hongkong*, str., for Hoihow—Messrs. Cl. Madrolle and Chang Wan Hon. For Haiphong—Messrs. Robert Watt, W. Richey, M. Charretier, Rev. Belieres.

Per *Thales*, str., for Amoy—Mr. Ollio.

Per *Kaiser-i-Hind*, str., for Shanghai from Hongkong—Mr. Wade Gardner, Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Harris, Mrs. Prebst, Messrs. Carl Holmstrom, Tong Soi Chee and son, L. Rocher, Mr. and Mrs. and Master A. Ault, Mr. and Mrs. Baugh, Mr. Sa In Ting, Mrs. Madar and 3 children, Mr. F. J. Hecker, Miss Hecker, Messrs. E. Des Vaux and T. Odzu. From London—Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Wade Gardner and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. Ritchie and child, Mr. H. A. Robertson, Miss Dunster, Miss Atherley, Mr. and Mrs. Botham and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. Sheart, Messrs. J. Smith, G. Douray, Wm. Moore, Williamson, Miss Starmer. From Brindisi—Mr. and Mrs. Ricketts. From Bombay—Mr. and Mrs. Addymann. From Calcutta—Misses Dobie and Tucker.